7-day early voting starts this Saturday. PAGE 3
New trial for couple accused of harboring illegal alien. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Lack of workers delaying housing repairs, projects'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has been facing issues with renovations and upkeep of housing units under their programs and believes that they are all tied to the lack of construction laborers on island.

RELATED NEWS
NMHC's Palacios: More housing rental units on the way. PAGE 7

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'Unique CNMI-US relationship will be central to the 902 Talks'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI economy is among the issues that are part of a series of consultation meetings between the CNMI government and their federal counterparts. The meetings, called Section 902 Talks, began last Feb. 26 and both the CNMI

See NMI-US on Page 4

CUC's Yutu expense reaches $15.2M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. spent $3.5 million last month for Super Typhoon Yutu, bringing its total restoration program expenses to $15.2 million within five months.

Magofna

According to CUC's updated report, its total expenses for Yutu in February amounted to $3,450,834, which is the lowest since last November, when expenses reached $3,576,255.

See CUC on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jessie Campbell representing Agape Christian School spells a word during the 47th Annual Scripps Regional Spelling Bee eary March 2019.

NMI rep, 8, places 2nd at spelling regionals

by ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An 8-year-old student of Agape Christian School managed to place second at the 47th Annual Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam.

Jessie Campbell, daughter of ACS teacher Don Campbell, placed second in the regional spelling competition and only lost to a much older Rina Olsen from the St. John's School in Guam, who

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INSIDE

NATION
Town that is ravaged by a tornado prays together at the church that sheltered many.

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WORLD
An Ethiopian Airlines jet faltered and crashed, killing all 157 people on board.

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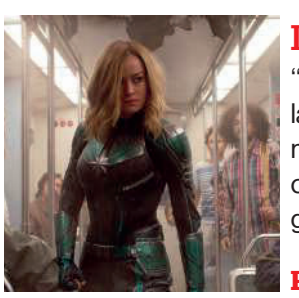

LIFE & STYLE
"Captain Marvel" launched with $153 million domestically and $455 million globally.

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Local

Man allegedly throws tire at girlfriend in a fit of anger

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man was arrested on Tinian for allegedly throwing a spare tire at his girlfriend in a fit of anger while he was under the influence of alcohol.

Brandon Mundo Aldan, 21, was arrested last Saturday on Tinian for allegedly throwing a spare tire at his girlfriend who was sitting inside her vehicle and for choking, slapping, and punching her.

Aldan is facing charges of assault and battery, criminal mischief, and strangulation. He could face up to over six years in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho kept the $15,000 cash bail for Aldan.

Aldan's court-appointed lawyer, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, intends to submit a request to modify the bail amount.

Aldan is set for a preliminary hearing on March 20 at 9am and an arraignment on April 1 at 9am.

Aldan was arrested at his home on Tinian.

According to court information, the victim contacted Department of Public Safety on March 9 at about 10:14pm, requesting police assistance because her boyfriend, Aldan, was allegedly beating her.

At the scene, officers noticed that the victim had a slight swelling on her face and damage to the vehicle she was in.

The victim told police that she and Aldan had attended a family party prior to the incident. She said Aldan got drunk at the party and tried to pick a fight with everyone at the party, even his own brother.

As the victim and Aldan were leaving, she said that they offered Aldan's brother and his girlfriend a ride but, during the ride, Aldan and his brother got into an argument, to the point where Aldan allegedly chased his brother and his girlfriend out of the car and told them to walk home.

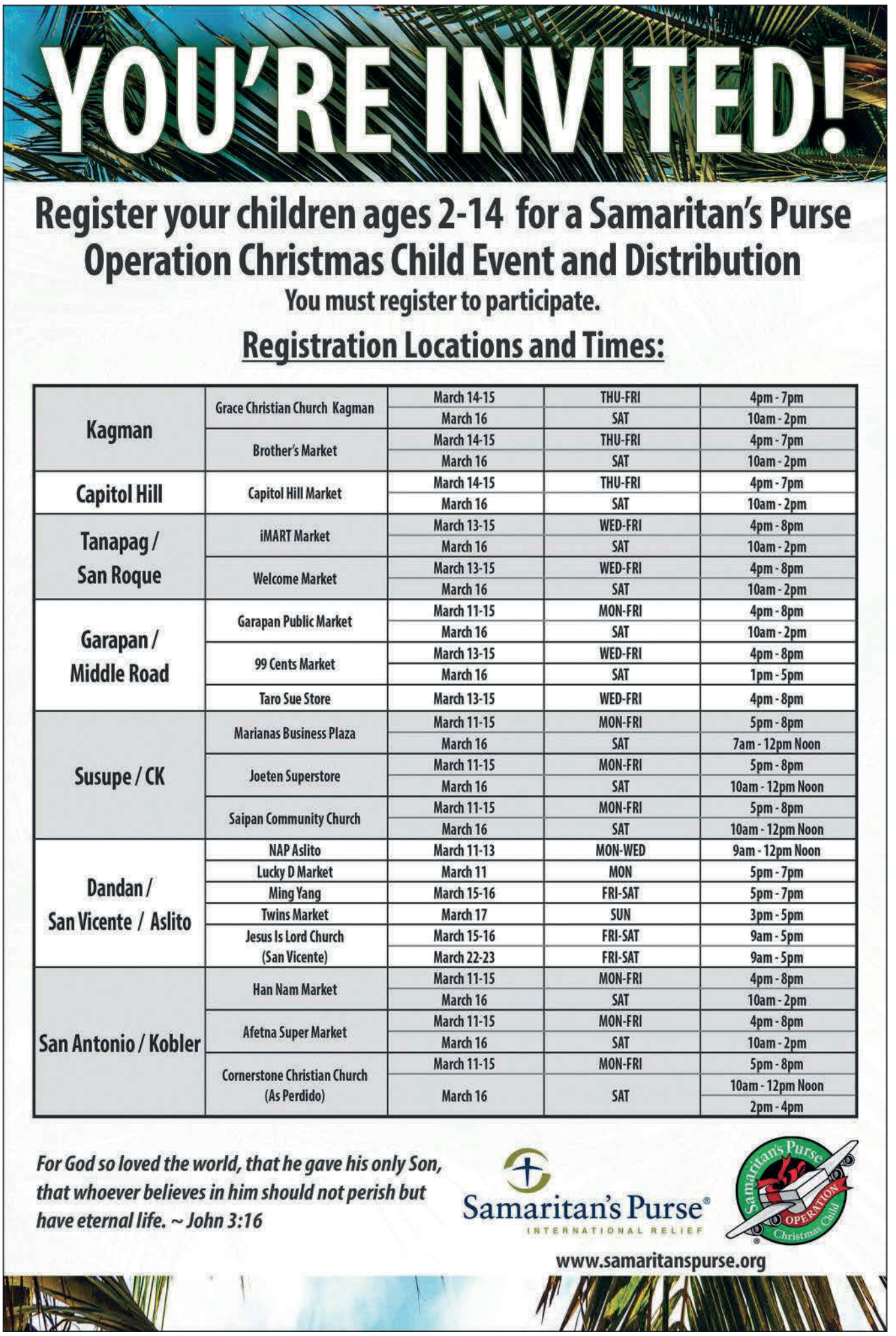
The victim said that, after the argument, she pulled over at the Natibu Park to talk with Aldan and she told him that she did not want to go home with him when he is angry.

Aldan began to argue with the victim and she told him to get out of the car.

Aldan then allegedly slapped the victim and punched her before exiting. Aldan then walked over to the passenger side and allegedly choked the victim.

After that, Aldan allegedly took a spare tire from behind the car and threw it at the windshield of the vehicle. Aldan also took a pipe from behind the car and continued to hit the victim's vehicle.

Aldan ran away after the victim called the police but he was later traced back to his residence where he was arrested.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March 16 | SAT | 10am - 2pm
Tanapag / San Roque | iMART Market | March 13-15 | WED-FRI | 4pm - 8pm
March 16 | SAT | 10am - 2pm
Welcome Market | March 13-15 | WED-FRI | 4pm - 8pm
March 16 | SAT | 10am - 2pm
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March 16 | SAT | 10am - 2pm
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March 16 | SAT | 1pm - 5pm
Taro Sue Store | March 13-15 | WED-FRI | 4pm - 8pm
Susupe / CK | Marianas Business Plaza | March 11-15 | MON-FRI | 5pm - 8pm
March 16 | SAT | 7am - 12pm Noon
Joeten Superstore | March 11-15 | MON-FRI | 5pm - 8pm
March 16 | SAT | 10am - 12pm Noon
Saipan Community Church | March 11-15 | MON-FRI | 5pm - 8pm
March 16 | SAT | 10am - 12pm Noon
Dandan / San Vicente / Aslito | NAP Aslito | March 11-13 | MON-WED | 9am - 12pm Noon
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March 16 | SAT | 10am - 2pm
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All-female batch at Drug Court graduation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Drug Court's upcoming graduation is expected to be the first of its kind as it will feature an all-female batch.

According to Drug Court judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio, the upcoming Drug Court would be both coincidental and special: It coincides with Women's Month and features a group of women who went through the recovery process and succeeded.

"We have an upcoming graduation and…our graduates are all women and our keynote speaker will be [first] lady Diann Torres," she said.

Aside from the graduating batch being all women, it is also special because as it serves as a celebration of sobriety and recovery.

After the graduation the Drug Court will officially have 25 graduates.

Tenorio said there are still several on the waiting list and there are currently around 39 still undergoing the process of recovery.

The fifth Drug Court graduation is scheduled for March 15 at 2pm and it will be held at the American Memorial Park theater.

SMG mourns founder's passing

TUMON, Guam—The Sorensen Media Group announced yesterday the passing of company president and founder, Rex Sorensen, who died last Sunday at 73 years old.

In tribute, a moment of silence was observed across all SMG radio and television stations at 5:30pm yesterday.

Sorensen came to Guam after a real estate career in Hawaii. In 1981, he launched what would become Guam's first dedicated talk radio station: Newstalk K-57.

Along with Jon Anderson, another pioneer in local broadcasting, the Sorensen Media Group grew over the years with expansions into news, FM radio and television products both here and in the CNMI.

"It's hard to calculate the impact this man has had on the island. Countless organizations and people have been helped through the platforms Rex created and supported. His tenacity was legendary; Guam truly has lost a titan of industry," said SMG general manager Shin Taira. "We are also grieving for Rex's children and his wife Mimi, who welcomed all of our employees into their family. On their behalf, we thank everyone for their prayers and loving thoughts extended during this heartbreaking time."

The company's history with community service organizations like Guam Cancer Care, Habitat for Humanity, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and others are a result of the example Sorensen set.

In addition to helping the island through local Rotary clubs, Sorensen also donated years of airtime for veterans to ensure their concerns are heard by the public and elected officials.

In this spirit, the Sorensen family is asking well-wishers to make a donation to a local non-profit organization in lieu of flowers. Sorensen's wife and children also thank everyone who has offered condolences and shared tributes.

"Early in my career, Rex made it a point to tell me why it was important for us to use our soapbox to help others. Every time I host a charity race, or welcome a service organization into the studio, I think about that," said Kyle Mandapat, SMG vice president of Radio Operations. "Many times over, this company has been a springboard to elected office, executive positions in the private sector, and even entrepreneurship. I'm grateful to have been mentored by the man who's led directly and indirectly to the success of so many." ***(PR)***

RELATED NEWS: Guam leaders mourn passing of Sorensen. **PAGE 8**

'96 pct. of people with bad kidneys are unaware of it'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the National Kidney Month proclamation designation at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday morning.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Most people with kidney damage or mildly reduced kidney functions are unaware that they have chronic kidney disease, which is usually a complication of Type II diabetes and hypertension.

Numbers cited in yesterday's proclamation signing for National Kidney Month noted that 96 percent of people with kidney issues are unaware that they have it.

According to the proclamation statistics, at least one in 10 CNMI adults suffer from diabetes while recent data suggests it is closer to 12 percent to 18 percent and over half of the CNMI adult population suffers from hypertension, at 56 percent.

In the U.S. mainland, 30 million people, or 15 percent of U.S. adults are estimated to have chronic kidney disease, while 48 percent of those have severely reduced kidney functions but are not on dialysis.

"I believe we need to get beyond awareness and put together programs and models for our people," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after signing the National Kidney Month proclamation yesterday at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "It is amazing and really astounding the statistics on diabetes [and hypertension] here…We really need to do something."

"We need to get beyond the talk and the noise and just go out to our people," he said.

CHCC physician Dr. Magdy Maksy, who has been with the corporation for over a year and a half, noted that the hospital has always been there to address health concerns. However, most residents avoid the hospital until the situation is severe and life-threatening.

"It is preventable. If it isn't, it can be delayed. If you have to have dialysis, you will be better prepared and in a much healthier state," he said.

According to Maksy, it still baffles him as to why some people wait until their condition is severe before seeking medical assistance at the hospital.

"It may be a cultural factor, maybe they don't trust the medication, the providers, I don't know exactly," he said. "…But we are here to help," adding that the hospital is equipped to take care of diabetic and hypertensive patients.

CHCC launches program to assist med students with college loans

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has launched a program to help students who pursue a medical degree repay their student loans.

CHCC said last week that it would be launching the State Loan Repayment Program, a program that offers primary care, dental, pharmacy, and behavioral health care providers at the CHCC an opportunity to obtain financial assistance in repaying their educational loans.

Those that are eligible to apply for the loan include dentists, pharmacists, registered nurses, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed alcohol and substance abuse counselors employed at CHCC.

Only U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals may apply for the program, and applicants cannot have outstanding contractual obligations for health professional services to the federal government, state, or other entity, no judgment lien against their property for a debt to the U.S. government, and not be excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified by a federal agency.

Those who are selected will be obligated to commit to two years of full-time services at CHCC's State Loan Repayment Program sites that are within the corporation.

Interested applicants have until March 29, 2019, to apply for the program. The application must be sent to humanresources@dph.gov.mp or mail the application package to CHCC at P.O. Box 500409 Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950, CNMI CHCC-SLRP.

For more information regarding the application or eligibility, email CHCC human resources director Clarinda Ngirausui at clarinda.ngirausui@dph.gov.mp.

Application forms are available at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/index.php/administration/human-resources/employment-opportunities.

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Businessman in CW-1 fraud gets probation sentence

A businessman was sentenced yesterday in federal court to one-year probation for engaging in fraud in connection with the application for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program or CW-1 permits.

Kosuke Tomokiyo, 55, a Japanese national, was also ordered to pay immediately a $5,000 fine after sentencing.

In the event there is any balance in the fine after the sentencing, it shall be paid in installments during the probation period, said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Tomokiyo was also directed to pay a special assessment fee of $100 immediately after sentencing. He was also ordered to report to an immigration official for deportation.

The judge granted assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley's request that Tomokiyo report to Homeland Security Investigations this morning, Tuesday.

Manglona

According to the minutes of the hearing, O'Malley, who is counsel for the U.S. government, recommended a sentence of one-year probation and a $5,000 fine.

O'Malley said the sentence is enough to deter Tomokiyo and others who may be tempted to engage in this type of crime.

The prosecutor said the U.S. government has seen no evidence that Tomokiyo was involved in other illegal activities while in the CNMI, but believes he merely wished to reside here as a de facto tourist.

David George Banes, who is private counsel for Tomokiyo, recommended a sentence of one-year probation and a $1,000 fine.

In his recommendation, Banes pointed out that the U.S. Probation agrees that the defendant played a minor role in the fraudulent scheme at the center of this case.

Banes said Tomokiyo has no criminal history, poses no threat to society, and that he is already a deportable alien.

Tomokiyo pleaded guilty to one count of fraud and misuse of visas for a scheme in which he obtained a CW-1 permit by conspiring with co-defendant, Mizanur Khan. Khan also pleaded guilty.

As part of the scheme, Tomokiyo agreed to provide Khan with capital to start a small business called K.C.A. Corp. In exchange, Khan and K.C.A. sponsored Tomokiyo as one of its employees, even though he was not, in fact, an employee.

Tomokiyo and Khan sustained this scheme for three years, twice submitting information to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to obtain CW-1 renewals.

According to court documents, Tomokiyo was vice president and part owner of K.C.A. Corp. Khan, who was president and part-owner of the company, was charged with four counts of fraud and misuse of visas and permits and two counts of mail fraud.

According to the indictment, on Aug. 5, 2015, Khan lied to USCIS that three foreign workers would be employed by K.C.A. as an "operation service worker (charcoal maker)" and that they would be employed in that capacity for 40 hours per week, for a period of one year.

On Aug. 22, 2016, Khan and Tomokiyo allegedly lied to USCIS that Tomokiyo had previously been and was to be employed by K.C.A. as a "sales manager," and that Tomokiyo had been employed in that capacity since January 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMI-US

From Page 1

and federal panels would reconvene anytime soon for the ongoing consultations.

Section 902 under Article IX of the Covenant that established the CNMI in political union with the United States, states that both governments will hold regular consultation meetings on issues that might affect their unique relationship.

Labor, immigration, and the CNMI's economic viability are expected to be the current focus of the talks in the wake of decisions by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on two worker visa programs used in the Commonwealth.

USCIS stopped in December last year the CNMI parole program. That decision affects spouses and immediate relatives of citizens of the Freely Associated States and spouses or IRs of U.S. citizens; parents of U.S. citizen children who are either under or over 21 years old; CNMI permanent residents, and stateless individuals. Those affected will have until June this year to transition to other U.S. visas to be legally allowed to stay on the islands.

DHS, meanwhile, declared Philippine construction workers ineligible for the H-2B visa last January. That effectively denied the CNMI access to skilled laborers from that country, at a time when the Commonwealth needs to rebuild or repair typhoon-ravaged homes and to complete several hotel projects.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said they are right now working on the details of the second meeting, like when and where to hold it.

"The discussion that was put forth are the issues that we have here. There's not much detail that I can say, other than we are echoing our concerns...."

"Hopefully, at the end, there would be a final product. The same thing with what we had two years ago. That's the first time we had a finished product. The product that was introduced to the [U.S.] House [of Representatives] is a product that says, 'Hey, this is a product of our consultation meetings. This is our recommendations in the 902 Talks.'"

He said the 902 Talks will highlight the unique relationship between the CNMI and the United States. "I think that's the most important part of the 902 [Talks]," which is to remind the U.S. Congress "that we are different, that our relationship with the U.S. should be taken seriously."

He added that the report, the finished product, is not just a simple document. "It's a binding contract and we want to make sure that we use it. Whether it is an immigration issue or [defense]… that's the avenue that was given when we voted to be part of the U.S."

Other meetings

Torres said he also met with other departments like the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs, and U.S. Department of Commerce.

He highlighted the meeting he had with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, where they talked about private-public partnership in building infrastructure.

However, the system can't directly apply on Saipan where private investors could come in and build new roads and they can get the money that they invested by charging toll fees. "You can't do that on Saipan. Build and then charge toll. We have a road that's 12 miles long and four miles wide. Everything here comes in through air or the [sea]port."

"One of the discussions that I asked with the Secretary [Chao] is: Is there any way you could see us as different? And if we were to build a new airport, use the investment as a toll, where you charge extra for tourists or any passenger?"

"Because of that uniqueness she said: 'Well, we've never done that before—passengers fees—but maybe that's something that you may look into seriously.' It is just so hard for us here, because we live [thousands of miles away] and I echoed this in all the meetings that I had in that trip."

WORKERS

From Page 1

According to Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Jesse Palacios, their two main issues with providing enough housing for the CNMI community is tied to the lack of construction laborers on island.

"Both building a home and renting out homes are our biggest problems and they're both tied to construction," he said.

Palacios explained that NMHC has issues with the loan they are given by the U.S Housing and Urban Development, which is too low and that there aren't that many inhabitable rental properties to begin with. Both issues could be solved if there were enough laborers, Palacios added.

"A lot of properties are still damaged and they don't have workers to fix these homes, so they're not available for rent. Same…for new construction. The prices are too low for the contractors to take on the project and those are our two main issues for housing," he said.

Palacios said that construction workers are the wheel for housing to efficiently run in the CNMI and both the economy and the community suffer because this resource has now become scarce.

"That's what makes the wheels turn for housing here. We need them because they're the ones that build housing for homeowners; they're the ones who fix rental housing. Everything revolves around them. This really hurts the economy as well as the community with housing," he said.

Palacios also mentions that community projects have also been harder to complete because of the lack of construction laborers.

"Even if we have the funding, who is going to build these projects? They're the ones who construct all our community projects," he said.

To address the issue, Palacios said that they are working on increasing loan amounts in order for the remaining contractors to take on NMHC projects.

"We're trying to address that by increasing our loan amounts but we just need the data from them. We cant just tell a federal agency that we want the loan amounts to increase. We need to prove that, so that's why we gathered contractors together so that they can submit proposals based on the scope of work that we provide them," he said.

NMI

From Page 1

is 12 years old.

As the second placer, Campbell could proceed to represent the region at the 92nd Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.—if Olsen is unable to go herself.

"I find it very scary when she is up on stage, especially when it is her word," said her dad, Don Campbell, in an interview. "She looks calm[er] than I [am], so I put a smile on so my nervousness doesn't transfer to her."

He noted that his daughter only had a month to prepare for the competition in Guam.

Some of the words that Jessie Campbell was asked to spell during the Guam competition were "caboose," "kudzu," "histoplasmosis," "ovoid," "lurid," and "incarnadine," to name a few.

This was Jessie Campbell's first year at the regionals, while Olsen had been there six times "so she has a lot more experience," said Don Campbell.

Jessie Campbell competed with 62 other participants at the regional spelling bee, representing Pohnpei, the CNMI, and Guam, all ranging from 4th to 8th grade.

"We have been [participating in the Scripps Spelling Bee] for many years," said Pastor Kok H. Pang, administrator of ACS. "…For Jessie to do so well [in a regional spelling bee], we are so overjoyed."

"Knowing many words is so important so that they can write better, read better," Pang added.

Don Campbell noted that plans for future spelling bees have yet to be finalized.

"We will see. She still has to compete here," he said, adding that Jessie Campbell would most likely be participating in upcoming spelling bees.

CUC

From Page 1

As of last week, CUC reported that since Yutu's devastation in October 2018, they have energized or provided power to 97 percent of their overall customers on Saipan and 87 percent on Tinian.

Acting chief financial officer Corina Magofna presented the report during last week's CUC board meeting.

The highest expense was last January, when CUC incurred $4,299,298 in costs. Last December, total expenses was at $3,847,792.

October's total expense was only $18,957.

Total expenses since October have already reached $15,193,135. Yutu hit the CNMI on Oct. 24 and 25.

The bulk of the $15.2 million expense went to Guam Power Authority ($6.4 million), for labor ($4.6 million), and for rental of equipment ($1.7 million).

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed in December that over 280 utility personnel, including off-island volunteers, were involved in the restoration program on Saipan and Tinian.

GPA reportedly sent 41 power experts.

Last week, Camacho told the board that the Guam Power Authority personnel and Pohnpei crews have already left the CNMI and returned to their respective islands.

Camacho said this leaves their contractor, Primary Source Electric, to do primarily mitigation work and some restoration work.

He said CUC is doing the restoration work and at their Power Division's request, their contractor, JJ Global, will continue for an additional month to assist with restoration efforts.

Expenses for JJ Global totaled $75,000 and $240,000 last January and February, respectively.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is reimbursing all of CUC's typhoon-related expenses.

Magofna said that, of the $15.2-million expense, FEMA has already reimbursed $11.1 million, leaving a $4.1-million balance as of March 2.

Magofna also disclosed that CUC's submission for the reimbursement of $3.4 million for Super Typhoon Soudelor's expenses is still with FEMA.

New trial for couple accused of harboring illegal alien child

The federal court has set a new trial date in the case of a couple who prevailed in their appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that reversed their convictions over allegations that they harbored an illegal alien child.

The case against Lili Zhang Tydingco and Francisco Muña Tydingco has been set for trial on April 30.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the pre-trial conference for tomorrow, Wednesday.

Manglona held a hearing last Friday after receiving the order from the Ninth Circuit in connection with the reversal of the couple's convictions.

The parties in the case requested for a new trial date.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government. Benjamin Petersburg served as court-appointed counsel for Lili Zhang Tydingco, while Steven Pixley appeared as court-appointed counsel for Francisco Muña Tydingco.

A federal grand jury indicted the couple for allegedly receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

In June 2016, a federal court jury rendered a unanimous guilty verdict finding Lili Zhang Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and Francisco Muña Tydingco guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring.

On Dec. 9, 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Zhang Tydingco to 10 months in prison, with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Muña Tydingco to 21 months in prison, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos, through Pixley and lawyer Bruce Berline, appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentence.

The couple have remained free while their appeal was pending.

In the order last year that reversed the convictions, the Ninth Circuit judges held that Manglona's instruction defining "harbor" was erroneous because it did not require the jury to find that the Tydingcos intended to violate the law, and the error was not harmless.

The judges said the District Court's instruction defining "reckless disregard" was plainly erroneous because it did not require the jury to find that Lili Zhang Tydingco subjectively drew an inference that the alien was, in fact, an alien and was in the United States unlawfully.

The panel held that the instruction may have affected the outcome of the trial, and the error constitutes a miscarriage of justice, warranting a new trial, because the jury could have convicted the couple on an invalid legal theory.

With the reversal of the convictions, the Ninth Circuit remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

7-day early voting starts Saturday

The seven-day early voting for the special election for a Precinct 3 seat in the House of the Representatives will start this Saturday.

Commonwealth Election Commission election register clerk Robin N. Sablan said yesterday that the early voting for Precinct 3A and 3B will be held at the Garapan Community Development Center, which is adjacent to the Carolinian Affairs in Garapan.

Precinct 3A covers San Jose/Oleai, while Precinct 3B covers Garapan.

Sablan said the polling place will open each day at 8:30am and close at 4pm, even weekends.

Early voting will end on March 22. The special election will be on March 23.

The designated polling places for the special election are room 18 of the Oleai Elementary School for Precinct 3A voters and cafeteria of the Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B voters.

The polling places at Oleai and Garapan elementary schools will open at 7am and close at 7pm.

Voters must bring with them a picture identification card as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

For more information, call the CEC at 235-8683(VOTE). ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

■ **Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**

- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Isa Drive, Lower Papago
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Lao Lao Bay and Lower Papago
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete ones

■ **Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**

- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Isa Drive, Lower Papago
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Lower Papago
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete ones

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 6:30am to 11:30am**

- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Oleai
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Oleai
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-12
- ❑ Work to be performed: Reset four concrete poles to proper depth

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**

- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Kiya 1distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Dandan
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Saipan International Airport and As Perdido
- ❑ Water service affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace 11 wooden poles with concrete ones (PR)

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 4pm to 6pm**

- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao and San Antonio
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao and San Antonio
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-5, A-4, A-5 and A-6
- ❑ Work to be performed: Maintenance

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from CUC and the contracting company Primary Source Electric (PSE) to safely replace twenty-nine (29) wooden poles with concrete poles and conduct maintenance of the power distribution system around the island of Saipan. The scheduled power interruptions are part of CUC's obligation to perform federal funded projects that are aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution systems which was affected by Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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25-FEB-18 DUO FU DUO CAI $ 108,081.67
30-MAY-18 DUO FU DUO CAI $ 132,639.27
04-JUL-18 DUO FU DUO CAI $ 56,640.75
20-AUG-18 GOOD FORTUNE $ 152,692.88
21-AUG-18 DA FU DA GUI $ 253,300.57
25-AUG-18 DUO FU DUO CAI $ 62,311.17
13-SEP-18 DUO FU DUO CAI $ 53,568.39
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Benavente pleads not guilty to 'ice' trafficking

Former Drug Court graduate Skyler James Benavente has pleaded not guilty to new "ice" trafficking allegations.

During his arraignment hearing, Benavente, 32, pleaded not guilty to trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" before presiding judge Roberto Naraja.

Benavente was represented by the Office of the Public Defender while the Office of the Attorney General's Chester Hinds represented the government.

According to court information, Benavente was arrested following a "buy-walk" operation of the Drug Enforcement Task Force on Jan. 31, 2019.

Court information states that a cooperating source helped task force officers in a sting operation last Jan. 31, 2019, during which they were able to allegedly procure a small ziplock bag from Benavente that contained a crystalline substance that later tested positive for methamphetamine. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CUC BOARD MEETING
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho, second from right, reads a document during CUC board meeting last Friday. The board directors unanimously voted for the renewal of Camacho's two-year contract as executive director. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Ban eyed on reef-harming sunscreens

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fresh in the wake of a similar measure in Hawaii, a House legislation is seeking to ban the distribution and sale in the CNMI of certain sunscreen products that contain chemicals that are harmful to coral reefs.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-28 states that two chemicals contained in many sunscreens—oxybenzone and octinoxate—"have significant harmful impacts on marine environment and residing ecosystems, including coral reefs that protect the island's shoreline."

Both chemicals also allegedly kills developing corals, increase coral bleaching—making them vulnerable to stress even at temperatures below 87.8°F—and cause genetic damage to coral and other marine organisms.

"These chemicals (oxybenzone and octinoxate) have also been shown to degrade corals' resiliency and ability to adjust to climate change factors and inhibit recruitment of new corals. Furthermore, oxybenzone and octinoxate appear to increase the probability of endocrine disruption," adds H.B. 21-28.

Scientific studies also showed that both chemicals can "induce feminization in adult male fish and increase reproductive diseases in marine invertebrate (e.g. sea urchins) and vertebrate species (e.g. wrasses, eels, and parrotfish), and mammals.

"The chemicals also induce deformities in the embryonic development of fish, sea urchins, coral, and shrimp, and induce neurological behavioral changes in fish that threaten the continuity of fish populations," said in H.B. 21-28.

"In addition, species that are listed on the Federal Endangered Species Act and inhabit the CNMI's waters—including sea turtle species, marine mammals, and migratory birds—may be exposed to oxybenzone and octinoxate contamination."

Hawaii became the first U.S. jurisdiction that outlawed the sale of sunscreens that contain both chemicals while Key West City in Florida voted to ban products with oxybenzone and octinoxate. Florida State Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando), however, wanted to expand the sunscreen ban to the entire state. Palau has also banned sunscreens with both chemicals.

Vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) along with Reps. Roman C. Benavente (R-Saipan), Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) are co-sponsors of H.B. 21-28.

A study by the Environmental Working Group in 2012 showed that both chemicals can be found in more than 70 percent of sunscreens that are being sold in the market while only a quarter are without the potentially harmful ingredients.

EWG, a non-profit organization that advocates for corporate accountability on toxic chemicals used, and other toxicology experts also link oxybenzone to hormone disruption and potential cell damage that may cause skin cancer.

JAE HOON CORPORATON D.B.A. PACIFIC GROCERS
has openings for:

One (1) General Manager
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent); three (3) years of experience as a General Manager (for Wholesaler or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise), Operations Manager (for Wholesaler and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise), or Sales and Operations Manager (for Wholesaler and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise); six (6) months of experience using Microsoft Excel; and ability to read, write and speak Korean sufficiently to negotiate contracts and communicate with Korean speaking customers and negotiate and communicate with purchasing agent for merchandise in Korea.
Duties: Manages and directs the company's overall wholesale operations of company engaged in sales of food items and general merchandise. Works in conjunction with company's corporate officers in planning, formulating, and implementing periodic modifications to the company's annual financial goals, business objectives, marketing strategies, and merchandising policies in order to continue to maintain the company's market share and further expand the company's operations into new market areas. Establishes and maintains customer relationships with existing clients and negotiates sales contracts with Korean speaking customers and major customers. Negotiates terms and conditions for procurement of merchandise from purchasing agent in Korea and makes necessary payment and arrangements for transportation of merchandise to Guam. Manages and oversees the day-to-day sales, business, and administrative functions of the company. Manages and directs the company's marketing and sales activities, including implementation of the company's sales policies and marketing strategies; monitoring overall sales activities and conformance with sales parameters; implementing and overseeing pro-active and corrective actions to continue to grow the sales of the company's products, and overseeing contractual arrangements and import/export financing requirements. Reviews financial statements, sales reports and other performance data to measure productivity, goal achievement, identify deficiencies and implements corrective measures to ensure sales and profit targets are met while providing high-quality service to customers. Directs and oversees expansion into new product lines and market areas. Exercises discretionary authority over the company's operations. Prepares report to the corporate officers on company's sales, gross and net profit, operational efficiency, inventory and logistics, and makes recommendations for continuing to improving operational efficiency and financial outlook. Utilizes Microsoft Excel in performing job duties. Travels to MSA of Tinian, NMI and MSA of Rota, NMI every 3 to 4 months to assess and address any operational deficiencies with the company's wholesale operations.

One (1) Operations Manager
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent); four (4) years of experience as an Operations Manager (for Wholesale and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise) or General Manager (for Wholesale and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise); six (6) months of experience using Microsoft Excel and six (6) months of experience using Sellwise or other inventory control software.
Duties: Assists General Manager in managing and directing the operations of wholesale company engaging in wholesaling of food items, general merchandise, and household goods. Assists General Manager and Executive Officers in planning, formulating and implementing periodic modifications to the company's business goals, marketing strategies, merchandising policies and operational procedure and establishing the operational budget. Manages and monitors sales and marketing activities and reviews financial statements, sales reports and other performance data to measure productivity, goal achievement, identify deficiencies and implements corrective measures to ensure sales and profit targets are met while providing high-quality service to customers. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory and projected volume of sales. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Monitors the company's operational efficiency and identifies and resolves operational deficiencies. Prepares staff work schedules and monitors staff performance. Prepares reports to General Manager and or corporate officers on company's sales, gross and net profit, operational efficiency, inventory and logistics, and makes recommendations for continuing to improving operational efficiency and financial outlook Exercises decision making authority over the operations and functions of company. Assumes the responsibilities of the General Manager in his absence.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum Qualifications: Three (3) years of experience as a bookkeeper or accountant for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and working knowledge of QuickBooks and SellWise software.
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Two (2) years of experience as a sales representative for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers.

If interested, send resume to Jae Hoon Corporation d.b.a. Pacific Grocers by email to wonshan@pacificgrocers.com
or by fax at 670-288-1239. Proof of qualifications required.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Efficient in handling financial records, statements & reports. Analyze financial information & prepare entries to accounts such as general ledgers. Reports & records daily transactions, do filing & bookkeeping. Prepare financial statements, taxes, bank deposits balance sheets, profit & loss statements & other reports. Petty cash custodian, maintain inventory records. Estimates purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise, items needed in the store, rest. & building maintenance or purchase merchandise, items to be sold or use.

Restaurant Waitress (1): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (1-3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant
in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

NMHC's Palacios: More housing rental units on the way

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI agency that's primarily responsible for housing in the Northern Marianas, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., is working to ease any housing issues on the island, especially after Super Typhoon Yutu.

NMHC director Jesse Palacios assured that the agency has been assisting residents who are eligible to avail of the housing programs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Palacios said that NMHC deputy director Jeannie Mafnas is coordinating with FEMA to help families affected by Yutu to get back to their daily routine prior to the devastation of the super typhoon.

"She's actually attending the town hall meetings that will help eligible families that were invited. These are families that experienced major damage in their homes and are eligible for new construction," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We're just helping them [FEMA] out since we're the only housing agency on the island. So, we're coordinating all the things with them.

"We're helping some of the locals here. We're…representing them. Some residents here are shy. When you put them in a big gathering, they are not going to ask questions. They are going to go through us where they ask us that if it's true they are going to have a new house and if it is free."

With the help of the U.S. military, FEMA earlier funded a roofing program and helped repair or re-install roofs in more than 600 homes on Saipan and Tinian. They recently introduced a new program where they would build typhoon-resilient homes for eligible families.

"They [FEMA] are also targeting homes that are still in need of roof repair. Also, from my understanding [building of new typhoon-resilient homes] is free. The only issue is when are you going to have the house. These are their [FEMA] programs," added Palacios.

He said that housing has been an issue on the island even before Super Typhoon Yutu. "We opened up our waiting list for Section 8. And, in…a short time, we already have up to 520 families that have registered."

"Our maximum is 500 so we have to close the waiting list again, so we can start purging the list of the people who are there," added Palacios.

Section 8 under the Housing Act of 1937 assists low-income households with rental housing by authorizing payments to private landlords. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development manages Section 8 programs like the Housing Choice Voucher.

Palacios added that HUD's program is not only reserved for rental assistance but also for individuals who want to build homes. However, there's currently a shortage of laborers for the construction trades that is affecting several projects on Saipan.

"The shortage is coming from the lack of contractors. We have put together some of our contractors that we can, then find out from them what is the true cost of building a house. Because they tell us that our maximum loan amount is not enough, so that's why they won't come to us and submit proposals for the borrowers," said Palacios.

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is another one of HUD's programs. The Isa Villas on Capital Hill is one of these projects; it is about to be completed. It set to open by the end of April.

"This one [Isa Villas] would provide 27 units as part of the Phase 1. Overall, with Phase 2, it will be over 100 units. … We also have another one in Gualo Rai, a four story 44-unit tax credit project that's going to open in summer this year," said Palacios.

"Behind Triple J is another tax credit project. We have three that are under construction and two will open up this year. That's about 71 additional units that can be rented this year."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force started training yesterday at the island of Farallon de Medinilla, from 8am to 10pm daily. It will last until March 15.

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps also started training yesterday at Warning Area 517, from 12:05am to 11:55pm daily. It will last until March 21.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla is in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

For the W-517 training, the Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will be closed for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Zoning Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. 670-234-9661, FAX 234-9666
E-mail ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp

Mariano Taitano, Treasurer
Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Secretary
Patrick Reyes, Member

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS FOR SLL 20-25, NUISANCE ABATEMENT & BLIGHTED PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ACT OF 2018

The Zoning Office will be conducting several Public Outreach and Education Awareness meetings at specified locations around the island with community members, businesses, developers, property-owners, or any interested members of the general public. The first meeting to be held at the **Dandan Middle School on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 5:30pm.**

These meetings are intended to engage the public and discuss **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

The scheduled public outreach meetings within targeted villages are as follows:

DATE	PLACE	TIME
March 12, 2019 – Tues.	Dandan Middle School cafeteria, Dandan	5:30pm
March 14, 2019 – Thurs.	Saipan Southern High School cafeteria, Koblerville	5:30pm
March 19, 2019 – Tues.	Kagman High School cafeteria, Kagman	5:30pm
March 21, 2019 – Thurs.	Tanapag Middle School cafeteria, Tanapag	5:30pm
April 2, 2019 – Tues.	Multipurpose Center, Susupe	5:30pm
April 9, 2019 – Tues.	GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque	5:30pm
April 16, 2019 – Tues.	Garapan Elementary School cafeteria, Garapan	5:30pm

The Zoning Board and Office encourages the public to join and attend the meetings to learn more about **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

SLL 20-25 may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.zoning.gov.mp

For more information, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or visit the office located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building located in Dandan.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-010

TANDUKI DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tanduki Drive Road Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 12, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 2, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 9, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-010".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time April 12, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 12, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 12, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 24, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 29, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 12, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

Guam leaders mourn passing of Sorensen

Rex Sorensen, founder, president, and chairman of the Sorensen Media Group, passed away last Sunday. He was 73.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio issued the following statement: "We join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Rex Sorensen, the pioneer and founder of talk radio on our island. I've known Rex for many years and I always regarded him as great friend with a kind heart—a businessman who always gave back to our community. His legacy is in his vision and passion for our island and region to have the best in broadcast and entertainment. I send my heartfelt condolences to Mimi and Rex's children and will be praying for them during this difficult time," said Governor Leon Guerrero.

"Many of our people will remember the voices behind the microphone, the moderators of our conversations, the entertainers of our time, but we will never forget the man who forged the airwaves and opened up a platform for the broadcasting legends of our island. We will always be grateful to Rex Sorensen for strengthening our bond as a community," added Tenorio.

Guam Legislature Speaker Muña Barnes also issued the following statement: "Today we mourn the loss of a dear friend, a pioneer in the field of media broadcasting on Guam and the CNMI—Mr. Rex Sorensen. To Mimi, and his children, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your loved one. Rex, through the Sorensen Media Group, has touched the lives of every Guam resident: whether it be through being a part of their daily routine during their morning commute to work or the evening news, or even during typhoons, by keeping our people updated with critical information. As a policy maker—Rex, I see your legacy live on through the invaluable mentorship that you have provided to Senators who I have been honored to call my colleagues, as well as staffers within my office and our government. On behalf of the 35th Guam Legislature and the People of Guam, *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Rex for being a part of our community and for all you have done for our island." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BED DONATION NMC

The Marianas Visiting Nurses donates a hospital bed for Northern Marianas College nursing students to use in the Nursing Skills Lab to help in their studies toward becoming registered nurses. Photo includes NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, standing ninth from right, and Marianas Visiting Nurses human resource manager Gloria Salazar, standing eighth from right. For more information about NMC's nursing program visit www.marianas.edu.

G4S
Securing Your World

LOOKING FOR MORE EXCITEMENT IN YOUR JOB? WHY NOT JOIN THE TEAM AT G4S SAIPAN WHERE SECURITY & SAFETY WILL FULFILL THAT EXCITEMENT!

G4S Saipan is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Office Manager**
  To provide operational management and support functions to the CNMI Branch which will include but not limited to human resources, finance/accounting and customer service..
- **Security Officers (for Saipan, Tinian & Rota)**
  To protect customer's interests and conduct numerous patrols of industrial, commercial and residential locations

Competitive salary and benefits available! Join the G4S team where our Values of Integrity, Respect, Safety, Security, Service Excellence, Innovation and Teamwork are the foundation of how we operate.

Do not miss out on this amazing opportunity!

Please submit resumes to: hr@gu.g4s.com
www.g4sguam.com

G4S is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.

MLSC to hold free probate workshops

The Marianas office of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will present sessions in its ongoing series on probate law as follows:

- **Saipan:** March 14, from 3pm to 4pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on session #3, Accessing Bank Funds; Handling Small Estates.
- **Rota:** March 21, from 1:30 to 3:30pm, at the Sinapalo Youth Center on sessions #2 and #3, Preliminaries to Filing in Court; and Accessing Bank Funds; Handling Small Estates.
- **Tinian:** March 28, from 1:30 to 3:30pm, at the Tinian Public Library on sessions #2 and #3, Preliminaries to Filing in Court; and Accessing Bank Funds; Handling Small Estates.

This series of workshops is free, and open to the public. For more information, call the MLSC at 234-7729 or 234-6243. ***(PR)***

The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing
Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process

Due to the effects of Typhoon Wutip, Navy officials postponed public meetings planned for Feb. 26-27, 2019. This notice announces the rescheduled public meetings and a 15-day extension of the comment period.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings, online at **www.MITT-EIS.com**, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT SEIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments must be postmarked or received online by April 2, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Open House Public Meetings

Arrive and submit comments anytime during the open house.
No presentation or public oral comment session will be conducted.

TINIAN, Thursday, March 14, 2019
1 to 3:30 p.m.
Tinian Public Library
San Jose Village

ROTA, Friday, March 15, 2019
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Hall
Songsong Village

SAIPAN, Monday, March 18, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
Kanoa Resort Saipan
Seaside Hall
Beach Road in Susupe

GUAM , Tuesday, March 19, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
University of Guam
Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
and Henry Sy Atrium

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two years of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Materials Supervisor or Soils/Materials Engineer.

Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and one year of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or two years of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or Assistant Soils/Materials Technician.

Duties: Performs laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Performs tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Performs field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

Two (2) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and three (3) months of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician.

Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

Roman Rudnytsky is back to make music on Saipan

The Friends of the Arts welcomes internationally renowned classical pianist, Roman Rudnytsky, who is back on Saipan for another visit to spread his love of music.

The FOA will sponsor two special concerts during Rudnytsky's visit, called Magic Spring Music, and will feature differing selections each night from classical masters such as Chopin, Albeniz, Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and other musical greats.

The concerts will be held on March 16 and 23, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. Each concert will have different selections of music. The award-winning Marianas High School Glee Club will also entertain during intermission with a selection of songs.

These concerts of classical music are open to the public at no entrance charge. Voluntary sponsoring donations will be accepted.

This is not a dinner event but the Hyatt will have food and beverages available for purchase.

The doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm.

Reservations can be made by contacting Frank Gibson by phone or text at 287-7476 or by email at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The concerts are "a rare opportunity to listen to live classical music, played by a master pianist," according to an FOA statement.

Internationally renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky is back on Saipan for another visit. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rudnytsky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him all over the world. In addition to performances in capital cities and musical centers, he often plays in places away from the musical mainstream, bringing the world and pleasure of classical music to audiences which seldom experience this type of music in live performance. He has received much acclaim in the world's press and many repeat invitations.

A graduate of the Julliard School in New York, he also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy. Since 1972, Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recognition of his concert activities.

He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington, Indiana) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, in addition to being "artist-in-residence" at two Australian universities.

During his two-week visit to Saipan, he will travel to many CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with the students.

This is Rudnytsky's 10th trip to the CNMI.

Rudnytsky travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The FOA, with the help of sponsors from the community, have hosted some of Rudnytsky's previous stays.

Among the sponsors who are making this visit possible are the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Bridge Capital, IT&E, Drs. Edgar and Susan Tudor, Hertz Car Rental, KLCarr, Brabu Pharmacy, Dental Care, Triple J Saipan, Everest Kitchen, Toothworks Dental Clinic, PHI Pharmacy, *Marianas Variety*, Paradise Dental Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, JET Realty and J's Restaurant, Yaong Corp., Transamerica, Marianas Medical Services, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Green Meadows School, Topnotch, Thompson Law Office, and HR Support CNMI.

The Friends of the Arts invites the community to come and enjoy this special opportunity and an evening of magical music. ***(PR)***

4.4-magnitude earthquake off coast of Guam

A 4.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Guam over the weekend but no tsunami warnings were issued for Guam and neighboring Northern Marianas.

According to a statement from the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 9:40am last Sunday 27 miles north northwest of Guam at a depth of 116.7 mile

Multiple earthquakes were seen last month off the coast of Pagan and Agrihan.

Earthquakes are common in the Marianas archipelago because it part of the Pacific Ring of Fire where majority of the world's most active volcanoes are located.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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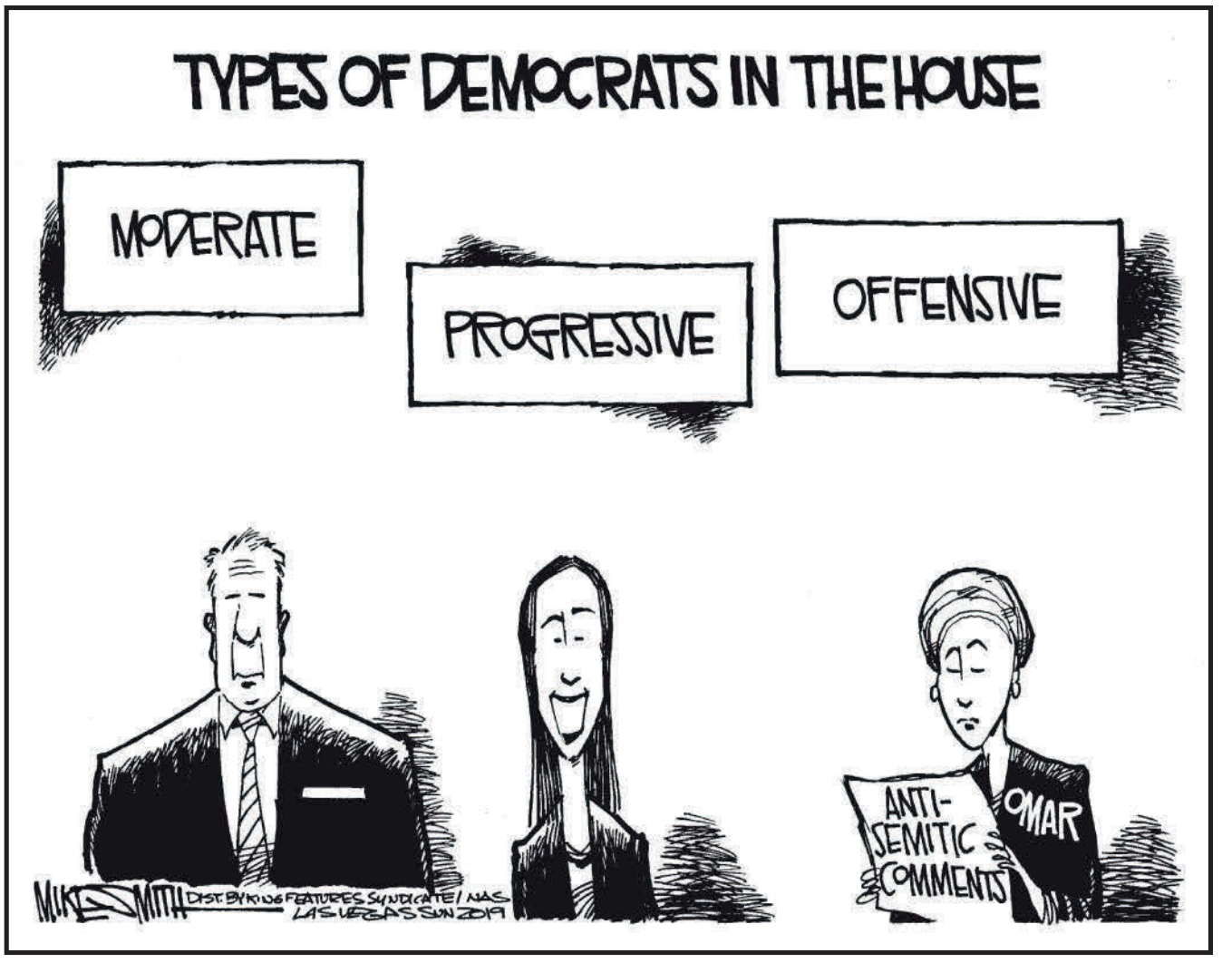

EDITORIAL

Major new study adds to our plea: Vaccinate your children against measles

The measles vaccine does not increase the risk of autism. A major new study confirms this fact, which has been accepted science for years.

The study of 650,000 Danish children investigated the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The results were published Tuesday in the Annals of Internal Medicine: "The risk for autism was no different in children who got the MMR vaccine than in children who did not. This remained true even among children who had risk factors for autism, such as a sibling with autism or an older father."

Anyone with cockamamie reasons to flout established science will still do so. But for someone with a shred of doubt, or just in need of fresh fuel to push back on a friend or family member who avoids vaccines, it's a timely dose of new evidence.

We weighed in on anti-vax parents on Feb. 10, after measles was diagnosed Downstate and spread alarmingly in the Pacific Northwest.

"Measles can cause lifelong effects including deafness. It is ugly, with its blotchy, fevered spots, some of which leave permanent scars. It's highly contagious and miserable to experience," we said.

With a touch of sympathy for worried parents, we also noted:

Rand Paul's weak case against mandatory vaccines undercuts efforts to counter measles outbreak

"Watching plump, pure baby flesh pierced and feeling trepidation about how the child's system will react can be legitimately nerve-wracking for a parent. That's no license to avoid a medical necessity that protects child and community. The right to resist comes with a corresponding responsibility to back up that impulse with rigorous research."

Now we have even more research to back us up.

There's been other measles news since then, too:

Ethan Lindenberger of Ohio, who sought vaccines when he reached age 18, told a U.S. Senate committee Tuesday that his mother's fear of vaccines was fueled by anti-vax groups that manipulate parents with misinformation online. He also gave support to worried kids of anti-vax parents who want to seek vaccines on their own. The Senate panel supported a national campaign to counter anti-vaccine messages, The Washington Post reported.

Pinterest led the way in blocking anti-vax posts on social media, and YouTube, Facebook and Twitter have stepped up their attempts to block the spread of misinformation.

Health officials reported possible measles exposure in the Chicago area several days ago at Midway Airport in

See MAJOR on Next Page

America's costly and futile war

"America would be more secure and stronger economically if we recognized that we have largely achieved our objectives in Afghanistan and moved aggressively to bring our troops and tax dollars home," Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) write in an op-ed article. "Today, despite vast investment in training and equipping Afghan forces, the country's deep-seated instability, rampant corruption and, in some cases, compromised loyalties endure. Extending our commitment of combat troops will not remedy that situation."

The senators are right, just as they were right eight years ago when they penned those words for the *New York Times* with Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). In the near-decade since, the White House has gained a new occupant from a different party, congressional control has shifted and the United States' 17-year Afghan war has been governed by ostensibly new strategies implemented by six different commanders. But the U.S. stalemate in Afghanistan remains fundamentally the same: The war is still a costly and futile project that does nothing to serve U.S. interests or move Afghanistan meaningfully toward political reconciliation or peace.

So little has changed in eight years that Paul and Udall this week introduced legislation that nearly duplicates their 2011 push for withdrawal. The 2019 American Forces Going Home After Noble (AFGHAN) Service Act has updated numbers—higher counts of U.S. troops killed or wounded, and a larger tally of borrowed tax dollars spent and often wasted—but its core demand for a quick and responsible exit from the longest war in U.S. history is unaltered.

All the senators' arguments against the war in Afghanistan—that it is a reckless strategic failure that benefits no one—are no less applicable now than they were in 2011. Just as then, those against withdrawal show no sign of ever wanting this war to end. And once again, Paul and Udall are faced with a president who has promised to bring American forces home but refused to commit to any reasonably expeditious timeline.

That stagnation is a telling indictment of what passes for foreign policy in Washington. Too many policymakers seem incapable, if not unwilling, of considering the big picture, of asking whether continuing this war is in any sense good, useful, or even in conformity with the will of the people they ostensibly represent. There is plenty of energy for fiddling with the details—a few thousand more troops here, a new infrastructure project there, drone and other aerial strikes scaled up or down or back up again, with civilian casualty rates following suit.

But in the task of adjusting anything more substantive than tactics in Afghanistan, Washington is generally content with stalemate or slow loss. A war undertaken right after 9/11 has devolved into a generational conflict; it is now being fought by soldiers born after the terrorist attack that precipitated it. And though, according to an October study from the Charles Koch Institute, 57 percent of Americans—and 7 in 10 veterans—support a full U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, our government has no such clarity.

By BONNIE KRISTIAN
Los Angeles Times

Bonnie Kristian is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a contributing editor at the Week. Her writing has also appeared in many publications, including CNN, Politico *and the* American Conservative.

President Trump, like President Obama before him, campaigned on shuttering reckless wars of choice, lambasting mission creep and the ineffectual nation building it so often entails. Yet neither president has succeeded in pushing past the inertia of what's been called the foreign policy "blob"—the Washington establishment who, as one pundit put it, "whine ceaselessly about the collapse of the American security order."

While the rest of the country is past ready to move on, the locus of Washington's foreign policy conversation about Afghanistan (and our half a dozen other conflicts in the Mideast and North Africa) is about the scale at which military intervention should continue forever, not whether it should continue at all.

A less narrow and more realistic assessment makes evident what Paul, Udall and other voices crying in Washington's wilderness contend: There is no U.S.-imposed, militarily enforced solution to Afghanistan's woes, and indefinitely prolonging our occupation cannot and will not change that. Our government is trying to bomb and spend Afghanistan into a political order that can only be achieved by those who must live with the outcomes, both through promising (if still uncertain) diplomatic efforts led by U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and through conversations among various factions of the Afghan people themselves.

Whatever course and time frame those negotiations may take, the business at hand for Washington remains the same: U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan must come to an end. It would be an appalling—if not exactly shocking—state of affairs if this point must still be made another eight years hence.

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Don't root for a Trump primary challenge

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The race for 2020 is taking shape, although there are still significant unknowns, including whether Donald Trump will get a serious primary challenge.

His fiercest Republican critics say, "Yes—please, please, yes."

They are probably wrong, and it's certainly nothing to root for.

Trump's dominance of the party begins with his lockdown support of the right, forcing any primary challenger to the left. This isn't fertile territory. Self-identified moderates and liberals are only a fraction of the party, *and* it is grass-roots conservative activists who have fueled the most potent Republican primary challenges (Ronald Reagan in 1976, Pat Buchanan in 1992).

Because a primary challenge would naturally come from the left and is unlikely to succeed, it will tend to attract people who don't have a future in GOP national politics and lack conservative bona fides—the wayward former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld; the centrist governor of Maryland Larry Hogan; the former Ohio governor John Kasich, who convincingly demonstrated his lack of national electoral appeal in 2016.

Trump is in a stronger position in the party now. He's been a rock on judges, abortion and religious liberty. Last time, many Republicans told themselves, "Well, at least compared to Hillary, we don't know what we're getting with Trump." Now, they are grateful for what they've gotten.

Could all of this change? It would require a torpedo to the bow from some enormous scandal and a significant ideological betrayal on something extremely important, like a Supreme Court nominee.

The promoters of a Trump primary challenge still haven't come to grips with how intertwined Trump's fate is with the party's.

If Trump becomes seriously vulnerable to a primary challenge, it's a sign that something very bad has happened that won't be constrained to him. Say it's proof of a criminal conspiracy with the Russians. Is the rest of the party that has defended Trump so vociferously in the Mueller probe going to emerge unscathed? Say it's a sudden economic downturn. What's the case that such an event wouldn't tank the GOP generally?

Indeed, a winning primary campaign against Trump would almost certainly be a catastrophic success. How would the winner put the party back together again for the general election?

Perhaps the hardcore Trump base and media will enthusiastically back whoever slays their champion. But why would they? Besides the inevitable hurt feelings and ideological disagreements, they will surely consider recent precedent—Never Trump would be the analogue to Never Hogan.

There is obviously a character case to be made against Trump, although Republican voters are already aware of his flaws and strongly support him nonetheless.

The contradiction in the case for a primary challenge is this: If it's a bad thing that Trump is potentially a weak general-election candidate, as Trump's critics say, then why make him potentially weaker with a primary challenge? What many of Trump's GOP detractors won't say out loud is that when they talk of defeating Trump, they don't mean only in a nomination battle; they mean seeing him lose in a general election.

That Republican voters would sense this, and understandably recoil, is another reason a primary challenge is probably a box canyon.

Encourage girls to speak their minds, even if it means interrupting

By MARISA PORGES
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Marisa Porges is head of school at The Baldwin School, an independent pre-K through grade 12 all-girls school in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

This week we celebrate International Women's Day, observed around the world as a chance to raise awareness of gender disparities and promote women's rights. After a groundbreaking few months for American women – when a historic number of women ran for and won seats in U.S. Congress, announced their candidacies for president, won record numbers of Nobel Prizes, Oscars, and more – there are no doubt some who are asking "Aren't we past this?"

Women are gaining ground in countless fields. So why are women still lagging behind?

As the leader of an institution committed to shaping girls into future leaders, I'm excited to see women rising through the ranks, winning prizes, and taking a stand more than ever before. As an educator of girls, however, I'm still concerned: Our girls' voices don't yet carry the influence of their male peers.

Take, for example, research demonstrating that men speak out more than women at work, interrupting female colleagues 33 percent more often than their male peers—even when the woman is a Supreme Court Justice. And little boys interrupt 3 times more than girls, in class and on the playground. Even though, if those same girls are on their own, in a single-sex environment, they speak up as often as boys.

Or consider recent studies showing that, while women are winning more scholarly prizes for scientific research, they are not getting as much respect—or money—for their breakthroughs. And that, across a wide variety of academic disciplines, women are still much less likely to serve on important conference panels, give talks, or be invited to speak about their work.

Women are gaining more seats at the proverbial table but, by and large, don't have an influential voice once there. What if the problem starts, in part, when we're young?

Lately, our focus as educators and parents has been nurturing girls to be confident, teaching them to be resilient, and encouraging them to be brave. But that misses a critical step. We need to do more to help our girls develop and effectively use their voice.

This starts by identifying gender norms at play in our kids' daily life. For example, by talking about pervasive social dynamics that lead boys to speak more than female classmates—and helping girls realize when they don't voice their opinions and understand why they should practice asserting themselves more often. Being honest with ourselves about this disparity also helps teachers and other adults realize we need to encourage our girls to actively lead—and yes, interrupt—during any class or activity. It also helps counter the pervasive bias that makes us think women and girls talk more than they do.

Parents should also look for ways to help girls practice using their voices. Home can be the safest space to develop foundational skills that children need later in life, and this applies to girls learning to speak their mind. When making family decisions, ask your daughter for input. Even if something seems minor or you know what the outcome will be—from what movie you'll watch together to what curfew will be—have her argue for what she wants. The outcome doesn't matter as much as the chance to build confidence and comfort with speaking up.

Consider the same thing in public. When you're at a restaurant, in an amusement park, or on a trip, ask your daughter to be the family spokesperson. Find moments when she can advocate for not just herself but also for others. Small things make a big difference. Practicing assertive communication skills early on builds critical muscle memory, making it more natural for girls to use their voices effectively later in life.

Above all else, remind any young girl in your life that her voice matters—that you value her speaking her mind.

Every day, we teach the girls at my school to demand seats at the table. We must also ensure that they know how to speak up when they're there. The first step is to teach every young woman to use her voice, loudly and effectively.

To celebrate International Women's Day, let's start by encouraging our girls to not just raise their hand in class but to interrupt, too.

MAJOR

From Page 10

Chicago and Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in west suburban Geneva.

The wretched pox is getting closer. We hope you and yours are vaccinated.

(c)2019 *Chicago Tribune*

Facebook discovers privacy

The headline of Mark Zuckerberg's 3,200-word blog post Wednesday—"A Privacy-Focused Vision for Social Networking"—might lead you to believe that the Facebook chief executive had decided to stop making bank off the reams of personal information extracted from the social media network's users.

You would be wrong. Facebook, which earned $16.6 billion from targeted ad sales in the fourth quarter of 2018, is not changing a thing about its flagship social network.

Instead, Zuckerberg mainly reiterated something we already knew, with one significant twist. The old news: Facebook plans to more tightly integrate Instagram, the photo-sharing site it bought in 2012, and WhatsApp, the chat app it acquired in 2014, with its Messenger instant-messaging service so that groups of users will be able to communicate privately and seamlessly across all those products. The new news: Facebook will encrypt all communications on that set of networks from end to end—that is, from the sender to the receiver.

Facebook users already can create private groups of friends on the site and on Messenger. They just can't keep their activity private from Facebook and the advertisers it empowered. By extending the encryption that's already part of WhatsApp to Instagram and Messenger, Facebook is essentially blinding itself to its users' activities there and giving them true privacy.

That's a good thing as far as it goes, but again, the main Facebook social network will continue as is, hoovering up personal information and monetizing it. How many of Facebook's 2.3 billion monthly users will shift to the new "privacy-focused" approach, which is not expected to roll out for some time, remains to be seen.

Granted, Facebook has less-than-altruistic reasons for its new initiative. Privacy regulators have been scrutinizing the company for years, applying increasingly tough limits on collecting and sharing user data. Governments are pressuring the company to find and remove false, harmful or (in some countries) dissident content; by encrypting some of its users' communications, Facebook will be able to fend off such requests. Meanwhile, younger generations of users have bypassed Facebook in favor of services with more privacy protections, such as Snapchat.

Regardless of Facebook's motives, though, creating a fully encrypted offshoot is a pretty bold step for a business that capitalizes on its users' personal information. Perhaps Facebook, which has been a model for how not to respect users' privacy, can now show other major internet companies that it's possible to survive without data-mining one's customers.

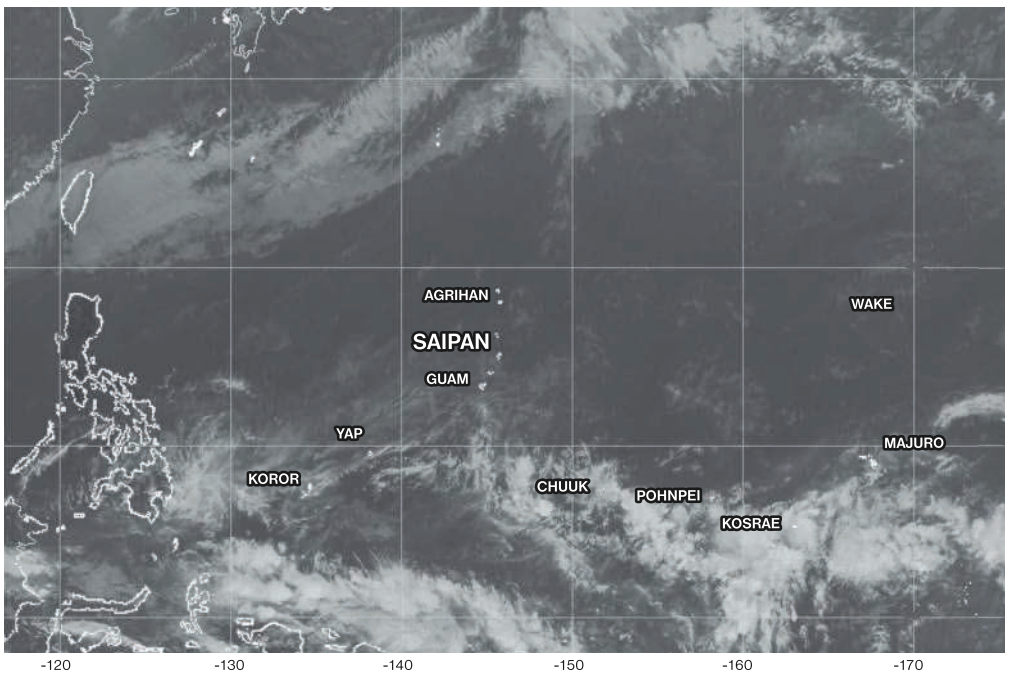
(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:04 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds accompanied by a few brief showers did pass across the Marianas this morning. This same pattern will persist through the week as weak trade-wind disturbances will bring brief periods of clouds and showers. Despite the clouds only isolated showers are expected as deep layer moisture will be lacking. Wind speed will range between 15 to 20 mph today decreasing to 10 to 15 mph tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 76°
Palau	Rain	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	82° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	63° / 36°
Hong Kong	Showers	72° / 66°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 68°
London	Rain	50° / 41°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 53°
Manila	Cloudy	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
New York	Mixed	47° / 30°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	50° / 37°
Paris	Rain	55° / 39°
Busan	Windy	54° / 36°
Rome	Sunny	61° / 39°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
San Francisco	Windy	55° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	46° / 27°
Tokyo	Sunny	63° / 39°
Washington, DC	Sunny	63° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.75
10:50 AM	LOW TIDE	1.80
5:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.24
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:06 AM	11:03 PM	-
Wednesday	10:51 AM	11:58 PM	-
Thursday	11:41 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:55 AM	12:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:54 AM	1:33 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Loss of local news hinders ability to watchdog govt

By MICHAEL CASEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Penelope Muse Abernathy, a University of North Carolina professor, stands with the daily newspaper selection in the Park Library at the School of Journalism in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

One of the last investigations Jim Boren oversaw before he retired as executive editor of The Fresno Bee was a four-month examination of substandard housing in the city at the heart of California's Central Valley.

The multimedia project revealed the living conditions imposed on many of the city's low-income renters, many of them immigrants: apartments filled with mold, mice and cockroaches, to name some of the more glaring problems. Local housing advocates compared it to the tainted water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

The investigation got immediate results.

"We made people's lives better. We changed laws," said Boren, who retired in 2017 and is now director of the Institute for Media and Public Trust at Fresno State University.

Among other things, the city responded by requiring property owners to make repairs when it found violations, rather than just levy fines.

"Those are the kinds of things that journalists do," Boren said.

It's the kind of journalism — holding local government officials accountable for problems that affect the lives of real people — that is in danger of being lost in many communities around the country.

Newspapers are closing or being consolidated at an astounding rate, often leaving behind what researchers label as news deserts — towns and even entire counties that have no consistent local media coverage.

According to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University of North Carolina, more than 1,400 towns and cities in the U.S. have lost a newspaper over the past 15 years. Many of those are in rural and lower-income areas, often with an aging population. The loss of a reliable local news source has many consequences for the community. One of them is the inability to watchdog the actions of government agencies and elected officials.

Newspapers typically have played the lead role in their communities in holding local officials accountable. That includes filing requests to get public records that shine a light on government action — or inaction — or even filing lawsuits to promote transparency.

"Strong newspapers have been good for democracy, and both educators and informers of a citizenry and its governing officials. They have been problem-solvers," said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a University of North Carolina professor who studies news industry trends and oversaw the "news desert" report released last fall.

"That is what you are missing when you don't have someone covering you and bringing transparency or sunlight onto government decisions and giving people a say in how those government decisions are made."

The absence of a local newspaper playing a watchdog role also can translate into real costs to a community and its taxpayers.

Researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Notre Dame found that municipal borrowing costs increase after a newspaper ceases publication. They found the increase had nothing to do with the economy. Rather, the demise of a paper leaves readers in the dark and emboldens elected officials to sign off on higher wages, larger payrolls and ballooning budget deficits, their study found.

"Our evidence suggests that a local government is more likely to engage in wasteful spending when there is no local newspaper to report on that government," said University of Illinois Chicago's Dermot Murphy, one of the study's authors. "Investors find it riskier to lend money to wasteful governments, and thus the costs of financing public infrastructure projects, such as schools, hospitals, and roadways, for a local government are higher."

Stanford University's James Hamilton applies a wider lens to the problem of newspaper closures, examining the benefits that come with investigative journalism — and what is lost when it disappears.

China grounds Boeing 737 Max 8 planes after Ethiopia crash

BEIJING (AP)—China's civilian aviation authority ordered all Chinese airlines to temporarily ground their Boeing 737 Max 8 planes Monday after one of the aircraft crashed in Ethiopia.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China said the order was issued at 9:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Monday and would last nine hours.

It said the order was "taken in line with the management principle of zero tolerance for security risks," because the crash was the second after another of the planes fell into the ocean off the coast of Indonesia in similar circumstances on Oct. 29, killing all aboard.

Further notice would be issued after consultation with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing, the administration said.

Eight Chinese nationals were among the 157 people aboard the Boeing 737 Max 8 operated by Ethiopian Airlines when it went down shortly after takeoff from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa Sunday, leaving no survivors.

The crash in Ethiopia could renew safety questions about the newest version of Boeing's popular 737 airliner since the plane was new and the weather was clear at the time. Finding something wrong, the pilots tried to return to the airport but never made it.

In those circumstances, the accident is eerily similar to the October crash in which a 737 Max 8 flown by Indonesia's Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea minutes after takeoff, killing all 189 people on the plane. But safety experts cautioned against quickly drawing too many parallels between the two crashes.

William Waldock, an aviation-safety professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said suspicion will be raised because the same type of plane appeared to crash the same way — a fatal nosedive that left wreckage in tiny pieces.

"Investigators are not big believers in coincidence," he said.

Waldock said Boeing will look more closely at the flight-management system and automation on the Max. But he noted that it is very early, and more will be known after investigators find and analyze the Ethiopian plane's black boxes.

Alan Diehl, a former National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said the similarities included both crews encountering a problem shortly after takeoff, and reports of large variations in vertical speed during ascent, "clearly suggesting a potential controllability problem" with the Ethiopian jetliner.

Trump's budget sets up another border battle

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is reviving his border wall fight, preparing a new budget that will seek $8.6 billion for his signature project, impose steep spending cuts to other domestic programs and set the stage for another fiscal battle.

Budget documents like the one Trump is releasing Monday are often seen as just a starting point of negotiation. Fresh off the longest government shutdown in history, Trump's 2020 proposal shows he is eager to confront Congress again to boost defense spending and cut $2.7 trillion in nondefense spending over a decade.

Titled "A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First," Trump's proposal "embodies fiscal responsibility," said Russ Vought, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Vought said the administration has "prioritized reining in reckless Washington spending" and shows "we can return to fiscal sanity."

Two administration officials confirmed that the border wall request was part of Trump's spending blueprint for the 2020 budget year, which begins Oct. 1. It would pay for hundreds of miles of new barriers along the border.

Trump's budget proposes increasing defense spending to $750 billion — and standing up the new Space Force as a military branch — while reducing nondefense accounts by 5 percent, with cuts recommended to safety-net programs used by many Americans.

The plan sticks to budget caps that both parties have routinely broken in recent years and promises to come into balance in 15 years, relying in part on economic growth that may be uncertain.

The officials were not authorized to discuss budget details publicly before Monday's release of the plan and spoke on condition of anonymity.

While pushing down spending in some areas, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the proposal will seek to increase funding in others to align with the president's priorities, according to one official.

The administration will invest more than $80 billion for veterans services, a nearly 10 percent increase from current levels, including "significant" investments in rehabilitation, employment assistance and suicide prevention.

It will also increase resources to fight the opioid epidemic with money for prevention, treatment, research and recovery, the administration said. And it seeks to shift some federal student loan costs to colleges and universities.

By adhering to strict budget caps, Trump is signaling a fight ahead. The president has resisted big, bipartisan budget deals that break the caps — threatening to veto one last year — but Congress will need to find agreement on spending levels to avoid another federal shutdown in fall. To stay within the caps, the budget shifts a portion of the defense spending to an overseas contingency fund, which some fiscal hawks will view as an accounting gimmick.

Nation

AP
Stephanie Dunson, right, rests her head on the shoulder of her daughter, Jesi, Sunday, March 10, 2019, at Providence Baptist Church in Beauregard, Ala.

Town ravaged by tornado prays at church that sheltered many

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP)—The pastor of a church that became a center for shelter, help and grieving when a tornado killed 23 people in eastern Alabama said in his first Sunday service after the storm that the Lord has reached out his hand to the community.

Imperfect things like tornadoes and other tragedies happen because we live in an imperfect world, Providence Baptist Church Pastor Rusty Sowell said Sunday.

His sermon focused on the Bible verse Isaiah 41:13: "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

Nearly 100 people safely rode out the March 3 storm in the church, which then because a center for donations and the place where Sowell and the county coroner told families they had lost loved ones.

This Sunday, 23 crosses sat outside the country church, one for each victim of the huge EF4 tornado that roared through Beauregard a few hours after last Sunday's services with 170 mph (270 kph) and a path nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) wide.

As she sat in a pew, Sunday, Cindy Samford said all her emotions hit her suddenly. She lost her home in the storm hours after last week's service.

"I'm heartbroken by the loss of lives and the devastation of it all. Today in church was a confirmation of faith that God was watching over us. God has his hands on us," Samford said.

President Donald Trump visited the church Friday as he looked at the damage, signing Bibles for some victims there seeking help.

Sowell said it was easy to speak badly about the president and wondered if some of the critics owned Bibles.

"My first thought is if that is what you are worried about, bring your raggedy self down here to our corner of the world and get to work," Sowell said to applause from the packed congregation. "The ones that are running their mouths are not down here getting their hand dirty, walking alongside the walking wounded."

But most of Sowell's sermon was how God reaches out his hand in times of need. He talked about how the church built a second building across the street with showers, a full kitchen and a large gathering space after the area was devastated by Hurricane Opal in 1995 and could not get help.

That building became the center of the relief efforts after the tornado.

"This is why this building is here," Sowell said. "And God knew."

Carolyn Thrower said being at Providence Baptist this Sunday was awe inspiring, knowing they were helping to show God's love and healing.

"Church always helps, but today it was a special blessing," she said.

Supplies continue to pour into the church, and Sowell said he was amazed at the generosity of people, even if Providence Baptist was dealing with a problem many places face after a disaster—too much donated water and clothing.

"Please we don't need any more," Sowell said of the thousands of cases of water and bags of clothes. "In fact, everyone here gets to carry home a case of water."

California police report almost no racial profiling

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California's first-in-the-nation attempt to track racial profiling complaints against police produced numbers so unrealistically small that the board overseeing the tally wants departments to make changes to encourage more people to come forward.

The panel's most recent report found 17 percent of California's law enforcement agencies reported not a single complaint in 2017.

And of 659 profiling complaints that were filed in a state of nearly 40 million people, just 10 were sustained. Three-quarters of the profiling complaints involve race or ethnicity, but they can also include age, gender, religion, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.

The people who share leadership of the California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board are divided over the seriousness of the problem and whether changes are needed based on the results of the second annual report.

Andrea Guerrero, executive director of the advocacy group Alliance San Diego, doesn't believe the numbers and thinks it might be the result of police protecting their own.

"We know we have a profiling problem in the state," she said.

Her co-chair, Kings County Sheriff David Robinson, disputed that. He said the numbers reflect the reality that it's "so rare and far between that someone is racist."

Under current standards, people who lodge formal complaints generally must use their name to report concerns that can range from an officer being rude or disrespectful up to false arrests or racially targeted traffic stops. And often they must go to a police station and fill out a form.

Robinson said most people prefer a more informal process that often doesn't show up in official statistics, like having a police supervisor hear the complaint and talk to the officer.

The panel has recommended that local agencies allow anonymous and third-party complaints to shield victims from retaliation, while making it easier to file complaints, including by providing materials in many languages.

There should be follow-ups so complainants don't feel they're being ignored, Guerrero said, and civilian oversight panels with "teeth in them" should oversee complaint investigations.

Plumas County sheriff's Deputy Ed Obayashi, an expert on use-of-force policies who teaches other law enforcement personnel around the state, said the racial numbers don't reflect reality, but he discounted any nefarious intent.

In Southern California, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, where Obayashi used to work, reported just one racial profiling complaint in 2017, while the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had seven. About 3.34 million people live in San Diego County, while the population of Riverside County, which includes the cities of Riverside and Palm Springs, is around 2.42 million.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the United States' largest sheriff's agency, recorded 31.

"There's no way," Obayashi said. "People who see this report are going to say, 'They're covering this up.'"

He and others blamed conservative reporting policies that leave out informal complaints, coupled with "complaint fatigue" by people who are too frightened to complain or believe they'll be ignored.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 die after their vehicle hits bus carrying Texas students

TYLER, Texas (AP)—Police say two men have died after their pickup truck collided in East Texas with a charter bus carrying students returning from Florida. Tyler police say five occupants of the bus—the driver, two other adults and two students—were taken to a hospital after sustaining minor injuries in the head-on crash just after 4 a.m. Sunday. Police say witness accounts indicate the eastbound truck veered into the westbound lane, striking the bus, which went off the roadway. Police say 32 people were on the bus, including six adults and 25 students. The students from The Brook Hill School near Tyler were returning from Orlando. The private Christian school serves students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Police say the pickup's driver was 22-year-old Jeffrey Dalton Aynesworth of Rusk. The passenger was 24-year-old Payton Joseph Raymond of Flint.

Georgia officers fatally shot man who had an airsoft gun

ATHENS, Ga. (AP)—Authorities say seven police officers in Georgia shot and killed a man who charged at them with what they later learned was an airsoft gun. Athens-Clarke County Police said they were called to a home Friday night about and armed man. Police said the officers demanded 34-year-old Thomas Swinford drop the gun, but instead he ran toward them, pointing the gun their direction. Police said in a news release seven officers fired at Swinford, who died a short time later at the hospital. Authorities say Swinford had an airsoft gun. Airsoft guns often look like real guns but fire plastic BB-like projectiles. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has taken over the shooting probe.

Jaguar attacks woman trying to take photo at Arizona zoo

PHOENIX (AP)—Authorities say a jaguar attacked a woman who crossed a barrier while trying to take a photo Saturday at a wildlife park west of Phoenix. Wildlife World Zoo authorities say emergency responders took the woman to a hospital to treat cuts on one of her arms and hand. Zoo officials say the jaguar never got out of her enclosure and won't be put down because of the incident, which is being fully investigated. The private facility has more than 600 species and 6,000 animals on display. The woman's name, age and hometown weren't immediately available.

Asia

60 years after Dalai Lama fled, China defends Tibet policies

BEIJING (AP)—China is defending its often-criticized rule in Tibet 60 years after the Dalai Lama fled into exile amid an abortive uprising against Chinese control, saying those who question its policies are merely showing their anti-Chinese bias.

The statements in official media came as Tibetans and their supporters marked the anniversary Sunday and called for greater international support. Despite decades of such calls, however, the Himalayan region appears no closer to gaining greater autonomy, particularly as China's global influence grows.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said in an editorial dated Saturday that economic growth, increases in lifespan and better education in the region refute the claims of critics that Tibetans suffer oppression from Beijing.

On Sunday, an editorial in the Communist Party-run Tibet Daily attacked the Dalai Lama, Tibet's traditional Buddhist leader, for what it said are his efforts to "sow chaos in Tibet."

His "separatist plots are doomed to total failure," the paper said.

The Dalai Lama has been living in the northern Indian town of Dharmsala since he fled from Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Beijing accuses him of seeking to separate Tibet from China, which he denies.

Tibet is enveloped in smothering layers of Chinese security and many Tibetans abroad say the Himalayan region's resources are being exploited for Beijing's benefit while Tibet's language and unique Buddhist culture is gradually being destroyed.

In India's capital, New Delhi, at least 3,000 Tibetans marched about 3 kilometers (2 miles) through the center of the city on Sunday carrying Tibetan and Indian flags. Invoking India's concerns over China's expansive power in Asia and beyond, the marchers shouted slogans including "Tibet's freedom is India's security" and "India-China friendship is a sham."

They also carried a portrait of the Dalai Lama while occasionally chanting slogans wishing him a long life and calling for freedom for Tibet.

"We have come here to remind the new generation that China snatched our country ... that's why we got together and started this movement," said one marcher, Sonam Yougyal, 52.

Hundreds of Tibetans and Taiwanese rallied in Taipei, the capital of the self-governing island democracy that China also claims as its territory.

Tashi Tsering, chair of the Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan, recalled what he called China's history of reneging on agreements to Tibetans and others.

"We should not trust the Communist Party of China whatever it says," he said.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, although many Tibetans say they were essentially independent for most of that time. Communist troops took control of the region in 1950 after a brief military struggle.

Conditions in the region are difficult to independently ascertain because foreign travelers must get special permission to enter the region. Access is rarely given to foreign journalists, and the region is closed to foreigners entirely during sensitive anniversaries.

The Xinhua editorial did not directly mention Sunday's uprising anniversary, referring to the events of 1959 instead as the inauguration of "democratic reform" that saw the dismantlement of the Buddhist hierarchy and feudal structures.

"Sixty years since the epoch-making democratic reform in Tibet, people in the plateau region have enjoyed unprecedented human rights in history," Xinhua said.

"Undeniable facts and figures" related to development "debunk the repeated lies and accusations that aim to smear Tibet's human rights with vile motives," it said. "Anyone without bias will recognize Tibet's tremendous progress in human rights."

Among the figures it cited were a rise in life expectancy of 35.5 years in the 1950s to nearly 70 now; a double-digit growth in regional GDP over the last quarter-century; and reduction of poverty by 80 percent.

AP

A Tibetan living in Taiwan wears a mask painted the color of the Tibet national flag during a rally in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday, March 10, 2019, to mark the 60th anniversary of the failed 1959 Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule.

Myanmar says 9 police killed in Arakan Army attack

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Nine policemen were killed in an attack in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine by the increasingly active Arakan Army rebel group, the country's Information Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry's website said 60 Arakan Army insurgents on Saturday night attacked the police post, which was safeguarding question and answer sheets from the national high school matriculation examination.

The Arakan Army, which is aligned with Rakhine's Buddhist population, seeks autonomy for the region. Rakhine is better known as the site of a brutal counter-insurgency campaign by the military against the Muslim Rohingya minority, causing more than 700,000 to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Attacks on police by the Rohingya ARSA insurgent group—which has become largely inactive—triggered the crackdown.

The government declared the Arakan Army a terrorist organization after it killed 13 police officers and wounded nine in attacks on Jan. 4. The Arakan Army on its website claims to have killed 10 government soldiers in a March 8 battle, but that incident has not been confirmed.

Myanmar's military announced in January that government forces clashed with the Arakan Army 15 times in 2015, 26 times in 2016, 56 times in 2017 and 61 times in 2018, while the rebels also planted some mines. They said that up to mid-January this year, there have been at least eight armed encounters.

The Arakan Army, founded in 2009, is estimated to have several thousand well-armed and organized uniformed members, in contrast to the ragtag and virtually dormant Rohingya guerrillas of ARSA. The Arakan Army is known to have trained in areas controlled by other ethnic rebel forces, especially in Kachin state.

Details of Saturday night's attack were also included in a leaked local police "Combat Report," which said nine officers were killed and two slightly injured, and that 12 weapons, including 10 BA-63 assault rifles, were taken away by the attackers.

The report said "the enemy" had strongly attacked the police station from three directions, using light and heavy weapons, and that the post's defenders defied shouted demands to surrender, with shooting ending shortly before midnight.

Indonesian woman freed 2 years after Kim Jong Nam's VX death

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—An Indonesian woman held two years on suspicion of killing the North Korean leader's half brother was freed from custody Monday after prosecutors unexpectedly dropped the murder charge against her.

Siti Aisyah cried and hugged her co-defendant, Doan Thi Huong from Vietnam, before leaving the courtroom. She told reporters she had only learned that morning that she would be freed. "I am surprised and very happy. I didn't expect it."

The two young women were accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. They have said they thought they were taking part in a prank for a TV show. They had been the only suspects in custody after four North Korean suspects fled the country the same morning Kim was killed.

The High Court judge discharged Aisyah without an acquittal after prosecutors said they wanted to withdraw the murder charge against her. They did not give a reason.

Prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad said the discharge not amounting to acquittal means Aisyah can be recharged but there are no such plans for now.

Aisyah was quickly ushered out of the court building in an embassy car. Her lawyers said she is heading to the Indonesian Embassy and expected to fly to Jakarta soon.

Huong's murder trial was put on hold after the surprise development. She was to have begun giving her defense in Monday's court session, after months of delay.

"I am in shock. My mind is blank," a distraught Huong told reporters through a translator after Aisyah left.

Indonesian Ambassador Rusdi Kirana said he was thankful to the Malaysian government. "We believe she is not guilty," he said.

Huong's Lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said they will seek to postpone the trial. He said Huong was distraught and felt Aisyah's discharge was unfair to her as the judge last year had found sufficient evidence to continue the murder trial against them.

A High Court judge last August had found there was enough evidence to infer Aisyah, Huong and the four missing North Koreans had engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill Kim Jong Nam. The defense phase of the trial had been scheduled to start in January but was delayed until Monday.

Salim Bashir, a lawyer for Huong, said previously she was prepared to testify under oath for her defense.

"She is confident and ready to give her version of the story. It is completely different from what the prosecutors had painted. She was filming a prank and had no intention to kill or injure anyone," he told the AP.

Lawyers for the women have previously said they were pawns in a political assassination with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and that the prosecution failed to show the women had any intention to kill. Intent to kill is crucial to a murder charge under Malaysian law.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

Kim Jong Nam was the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's ruling family. He had been living abroad for years but could have been seen as a threat to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rule

World

Ethiopian Airlines crash kills 157, spreads global grief

AP
Wreckage lies at the scene of an Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed shortly after takeoff at Hejere near Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Sunday, March 10, 2019.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—An Ethiopian Airlines jet faltered and crashed Sunday shortly after takeoff from the country's capital, carving a gash in the earth and spreading global grief to 35 countries that had someone among the 157 people who were killed.

There was no immediate indication why the plane went down in clear weather while on a flight to Nairobi, the capital of neighboring Kenya. The crash was strikingly similar to that of a Lion Air jet that plunged into the sea off Indonesia minutes after takeoff last year, killing 189 people. Both accidents involved the Boeing 737 Max 8.

The crash shattered more than two years of relative calm in African skies, where travel had long been chaotic. It also was a serious blow to state-owned Ethiopian Airlines, which has expanded to become the continent's largest and best-managed carrier and turned Addis Ababa into the gateway to Africa.

"Ethiopian Airlines is one of the safest airlines in the world. At this stage we cannot rule out anything," CEO Tewolde Gebremariam told reporters. He visited the crash site, standing in the gaping crater flecked with debris.

Black body bags were spread out nearby while Red Cross and other workers looked for remains. As the sun set, the airline's chief operating officer said the plane's flight data recorder had not yet been found.

Around the world, families were gripped by grief. At the Addis Ababa airport, a woman called a mobile number in vain. "Where are you, my son?" she said, in tears. Others cried as they approached the terminal.

Henom Esayas, whose sister's Nigerian husband was killed, told The Associated Press they were startled when a stranger picked up their frantic calls to his mobile phone, told them he had found it in the debris and promptly switched it off.

Shocked leaders of the United Nations, the U.N. refugee agency and the World Food Program announced that colleagues had been on the plane. The U.N. migration agency estimated some 19 U.N.-affiliated employees were killed. Both Addis Ababa and Nairobi are major hubs for humanitarian workers, and many people were on their way to a large U.N. environmental conference set to begin Monday in Nairobi.

The Addis Ababa-Nairobi route links East Africa's two largest economic powers. Sunburned travelers and tour groups crowd the Addis Ababa airport's waiting areas, along with businessmen from China, Gulf nations and elsewhere.

A list of the dead released by Ethiopian Airlines included passengers from China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Israel, India and Somalia. Kenya lost 32 citizens. Canada, 18. Several countries including the United States lost four or more people.

Ethiopian officials declared Monday a day of mourning.

At the Nairobi airport, hopes quickly dimmed for loved ones. "I just pray that he is safe or he was not on it," said Agnes Muilu, who had come to pick up her brother.

The crash is likely to renew questions about the 737 Max , the newest version of Boeing's popular single-aisle airliner, which was first introduced in 1967 and has become the world's most common passenger jet.

Indonesian investigators have not determined a cause for the October crash, but days after the accident Boeing sent a notice to airlines that faulty information from a sensor could cause the plane to automatically point the nose down.

The Lion Air cockpit data recorder showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights, though the airline initially said problems had been fixed.

Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons between the two crashes until more is known about Sunday's disaster.

Clashes break out in Yemen's key port city after cease-fire

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Fighting erupted in Yemen's key port city of Hodeida on Sunday, the first significant clashes since warring sides agreed to a U.N.-brokered cease-fire deal in December, security officials and eyewitnesses said.

Fires burned on the main front lines in the city's east and south, while exchanges of artillery fire shook buildings in combat that broke out overnight, they said. Both the Shiite Houthi rebels who hold the city and the government-backed troops who oppose them have been seen erecting barricades and digging defensive trenches.

"All night long, we hear the loud roar of machine guns and artillery, which had been silent for the past two weeks," said resident Ahmed Nasser, adding that he was worried for relatives who had returned to the July 7 neighborhood on the city's eastern front.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists, while witnesses did so for fear of their safety. Ambulances were heard in the city after shelling hit residential neighborhoods, but it was unclear what casualties had resulted.

The fighting comes days after the internationally recognized Yemeni government, along with allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, accused the Houthi rebel foes of breaking the cease-fire and refusing to withdraw their forces from the city in line with the December agreement.

Under the agreement, local authorities and police were to run the city and its three ports under U.N. supervision, after all sides pulled out their fighters. Both sides also agreed on a prisoner exchange, but neither of the deals have yet to be implemented.

Yemen's government has been battling the rebels since 2014, when the Houthis swept down from the north and seized the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war on the side of the government in March 2015. The stalemated conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and raised fears of famine.

Despite the Hodeida accord, which was signed in Sweden, fighting has also continued in other parts of the country. That too seemed to pick up on Sunday, with officials reporting fierce battles between the rebels and pro-government tribesmen in the in the Kasher area of Hajjah province, where the Houthis reportedly took control of the town of Abaysa using heavy weapons, sending hundreds of civilians fleeing in panic.

Former provincial governor Fahd Dahshush in a statement accused the Houthis of detaining dozens of tribesmen and killing several prisoners, including one local politician by shooting him in front of his family.

Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition opposing the rebels have killed dozens of their forces in the past days, the officials added, while trying to supply the tribesmen with food, medicine, arms and ammunition.

Yemen's human rights minister, Mohammed Askar, called for international humanitarian relief for the area, urging in a statement for the establishment of safe exit corridors for civilians and re-establishing supply lines for food and medical assistance.

He said that dozens of civilians have been killed in the recent fighting in Hajjah, including women and children, with thousands displaced in a monthslong siege of the area that has cut it off from necessary supplies including fresh water.

Brexit backers to UK prime minister: Don't delay

LONDON (AP)—Two prominent Brexit backers are warning Prime Minister Theresa May not to seek a delay to Britain's scheduled March 29 departure from the European Union if her withdrawal deal is rejected Tuesday.

Conservative Party lawmaker Steve Baker and Democratic Unionist deputy leader Nigel Dodds wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that prolonging the Brexit process rather than making a clean break would lead to "political calamity."

The two said slowing Britain's departure would mean a "costly delay" for British businesses and irreparable damage to public trust in politics.

Brexiteers who are ready to embrace a "no-deal" Brexit if no agreement is approved by Britain's Parliament worry that a possible vote this week to seek an extension of the talks will eventually lead to a softening or cancellation of Brexit plans.

Their warnings are based on the widespread belief that May's 585-page withdrawal agreement, reached after more than two years of rigorous talks with the EU, will be defeated in Parliament unless last-minute concessions are made by European leaders.

Thus far, the terms are unchanged from the withdrawal plan that received a shellacking in Parliament in January, losing by some 230 votes, a record rejection of a sitting government.

The prospect of another defeat has all sides in the Brexit conflict jockeying for position.

Scottish National Party leader Ian Blackford said Sunday that his party will put forward an amendment giving it the authority to hold another independence referendum if Britain does leave the EU.

The Scottish party is firmly opposed to Brexit, and its leaders point out that Scotland's population voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 referendum.

Blackford says the party seeks "a recognition that if the U.K. does leave the European Union that the people of Scotland should be able to determine their own destiny and in particular should have that power to have an independence referendum if we so choose."

Scotland voted to remain part of the U.K. in a 2014 vote, but its leaders have complained bitterly that it is being dragged out of the EU against its will.

Focus

A hot US job market is coaxing people in from the sidelines

AP

In this March. 6, 2019, photo Valarie Regas poses for a photo at Ponce City Market in Atlanta. Child care costs delayed Regas' return to the job market after she gave birth to her second child in 2012. Regas wanted to go back, but most of the jobs she found didn't pay enough to cover child care. So, she remained mostly out of the job market for five more years. After completing a coding boot camp, Regas was hired last year by a division of the European aerospace giant Airbus.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A surprisingly strong burst of job growth over the past year has led many economists to wonder: Where are all the workers coming from?

As recently as last spring, analysts had worried that hiring would slow as the pool of unemployed shrank. Many employers have complained for years that they could no longer find enough people to fill their open jobs.

Turns out they were both wrong.

The pace of hiring in 2018 was the most robust in three years, and for a surprising reason: Many more people have decided to look for work than experts had expected. The influx of those job seekers, if sustained, could help extend an economic expansion that is already the second-longest on record.

The growth in America's workforce — made up of people either working or looking for work — has helped reverse an alarming consequence of the recession: The exit of millions of Americans from the job market.

For five years after the Great Recession ended in 2009, many Americans gave up on their job hunts. Some suffered from disabilities. Others enrolled in school or stayed home to raise children. Still others were stymied by criminal pasts or failed drug tests. Some just felt discouraged by their job prospects. Because they weren't actively seeking work, they weren't even counted as unemployed.

Economists had speculated that millions of these people lacked necessary qualifications or were otherwise deemed undesirable by employers and might not work again. They were thought to be, in economic parlance, "structurally" unemployed. Subsequent hiring wouldn't necessarily help them.

Yet for the past few years it has. The proportion of Americans ages 25 to 54 who have a job has reached nearly 80 percent — the same as before the recession. Economists refer to this age group as "prime-age" workers. It excludes older Americans who have retired and younger workers who may be in school.

"The U.S. is a very diverse and dynamic economy and can often surprise us," said Julia Coronado, chief economist at MacroPolicy Perspectives. "This is a positive surprise. We're due for one."

On Friday, the government will report on job growth during February, and analysts are forecasting a solid if unspectacular gain of 183,000. That would fall below last year's monthly average of 220,000 but would still be enough to lower the unemployment rate, now 4 percent, over time.

That it took nearly a decade for the proportion of prime-age Americans who have jobs to reach its pre-recession level shows just how ruinous the Great Recession was. It destroyed 8.7 million jobs. And the recovery that followed was comparatively sluggish.

Still, the unemployment fell steadily, from 10 percent to 4.1 percent at the start of 2018. With so few people unemployed, businesses have increasingly begun recruiting more widely, including among people who hadn't been looking for work.

"Economists were too quick to discount what the economy was capable of going forward," said Martha Gimbel, chief economist at the job listings site Indeed. "There continues to be more room to draw people into the labor force and get them a job."

Other factors that have held some people back from seeking work have included the high cost of child care and a lack of paid leave. Research suggests that such costs have held back the workforce participation rate of prime-age U.S. women, a rate that trails those in most other industrialized countries.

Child care costs delayed the return of Valarie Regas of Atlanta to the job market after she gave birth to her second child in 2012. Regas wanted to go back, but most of the jobs she found didn't pay enough to cover child care. So she remained mostly out of the job market for five more years.

After completing a coding boot camp, Regas was hired last year by a division of the European aerospace giant Airbus. The company initially wanted someone with more experience, she said. But after she pitched them on her enthusiasm and willingness to learn, she was hired as a software programmer.

"Even with the exorbitant cost of child care, I am now bringing home real money," said Regas, 36.

Many companies are relaxing their education or experience requirements, according to economists and staffing agencies. They are considering more applicants with disabilities. Businesses are expanding their training programs. Some, analysts say, are also looking with a more open mind at people with criminal backgrounds.

Partly as a result, the number of people who either have a job or are looking for one grew 1.6 percent in 2018, sharply higher than the average annual gain of 0.4 percent in the first five years after the recession.

The rebound has confounded many experts' projections. The Federal Reserve has consistently underestimated the likelihood of more people finding jobs. In 2013, its policymakers estimated that "full employment" — the lowest point to which unemployment was thought capable of reaching without sparking higher inflation — would arrive when the unemployment rate was between 5.2 percent and 5.8 percent.

Unemployment is now 4 percent, with little inflation in sight.

And in 2014, the Congressional Budget Office forecast that the proportion of people ages 16 and up either working or looking for work — often called the participation rate — would be just 62.5 percent by the end of 2017 and would decline thereafter. Instead, the figure reached 63.2 percent in January, a five-year high.

Though the participation rate remains below its 2000 peak of 67.3 percent, most of the decline has resulted from aging, economists say. The huge baby boomer generation is retiring en masse.

"We have learned this year that there's more slack in the labor market because people are coming back in," Fed Chairman Jerome Powell told Congress last week.

The influx of people, Powell acknowledged last year, had come as a "surprise."

"That tells us that there is more room to grow, and that certainly has implications for monetary policy," he added.

If more Americans are available to work, it means companies won't necessarily have to raise pay so fast to hire people, a trend that helps limit inflation. Milder inflation allows the Fed to keep short-term rates comparatively low.

Average pay is still growing more slowly than it did the last time unemployment was this low. Adam Ozimek, an economist at Moody's Analytics, says this suggests that there is still room for companies to raise pay and perhaps entice even more people into the job market.

Women, it turns out, have returned to the workforce in greater numbers than men have. The proportion of prime-age women in the labor force is now higher than before the recession. And for women ages 25 through 34, participation is at an 18-year peak. The participation rate for prime-age African-American women also exceeds its pre-recession level.

By contrast, prime-age men still lag behind their pre-recession level of participation. But the reasons aren't as discouraging as they were five years ago. In 2013, nearly half of prime-age men who were out of the workforce cited disability or illness, according to data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

But unemployment among the disabled fell last year to its lowest point in a decade. The government has also made it harder to obtain Social Security disability benefits. Now, less than 10 percent of men out of the workforce cite disability as the reason.

Instead, Ernie Tedeschi, an economist at Evercore ISI, notes that nearly a third say they aren't working because they've returned to school. And about a quarter cite family responsibilities, mostly the raising of children, up from just 10 percent in 2013.

As they assess a broader pool of job applicants, some companies are doing more to develop skills. Goodwill Industries has experienced soaring demand for its training programs, which seek to turn people with low skills or criminal backgrounds into job-ready applicants. Goodwill teaches such traditional skills as welding as well as so-called soft skills, which include getting along with workers and taking direction.

Jennifer Taylor, a vice president of Career Services at Goodwill of North Georgia, says companies are so hungry for workers that in some cases they hire people before they even finish their training. The Atlanta-based Goodwill placed 24,902 people in jobs last year, Taylor said, three times as many as it did five years ago.

"We are seeing vastly more employers that may not have used Goodwill in the past and that are significantly increasing their hiring on the spot," Taylor said. "They're struggling to find talent in the open marketplace."

A survey by Manpower found that 54 percent of employers invested in training programs in 2018, up from just 20 percent four years earlier. One-third said they're adjusting their education and experience requirements, with some no longer requiring a college degree.

Ricardo Madan of TEKsystems, a staffing firm, says his company is willing to train more of its new hires, rather than just finding already-qualified workers. Last year, the Charlotte-based company paid for a three-month boot camp for 25 potential employees run by Trilogy Education, a training company, and Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

It ended up hiring 19 of them.

"We weren't thinking this way five years ago," he said. "It's never been this hard to find people."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2020 Soul is the best of the cute 'utes'

By Larry Printz
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SAN DIEGO—We're told by automakers that Millennials would rather cycle, scooter, or take the bus than own a car.

The reality is far different: they can't afford a car — new or used. Once they can, Millennials opt for something fun, something that enhances their life. It must have room for friends, family and lifestyle debris. It must be able to travel to who knows where to do who knows what.

And not only must it have an audio system loud enough to inflict hearing loss, it must also be reliable, easy on gas, cheap to insure and visually compelling. And it helps if it looks vaguely like a crossover SUV that's been left in the dryer too long. In essence, a cute ute.

The Japanese-market Toyota bB, sold stateside as the 2003-2006 Scion xB, established this class, joined shortly thereafter by the ugly and ungainly 2003-2011 Honda Element, the distinctly odd 2009-2014 Nissan Cube, the over-caffeinated 2011-2017 Nissan Juke and — of course — the ever-funky Kia Soul, introduced in 2010 in advertising featuring human-sized hip-hop hamsters, a fairly disturbing thought once you think about it.

Marketed as unambiguous boxes of hipness, these reasonably priced vehicles resembled mobile toasters designed with an unexpected impudence. But as the sale rack at H&M proves, fast fashion possesses the lifespan of a lightning bug in September. Of the boxes mentioned, only the Kia Soul remains, now competing against a host of less compelling and far more conventional entry-level adversaries, including the Nissan Kicks, Honda HR-V, Ford Eco-Sport, Toyota CH-R, Jeep Renegade, Mazda CX-3 and Chevrolet Trax among others.

But the Kia Soul endures.

It's the vehicle that endowed Kia with a personality that its identical corporate cousin lacks. Credit design honcho Peter Schreyer and his staff for making Kia something more than brand for those with thin wallets. Sure, you might flip burgers for a living, but you don't want to be constantly reminded of the fact.

And the 2020 Soul is the best of the mainstream cute ute breed.

TNS

The 2020 Kia Soul eschews its cheeky but cheap looks, managing to look costlier than it really is.

Design

While the second generation Soul, introduced for 2014, didn't stray far from the corporate Habitrail, the 2020 model plays the same melody in a different key. Its looks are fresh, yet it retains the attitude of previous models without slavishly mimicking them. Its overall stance and shape remains the same, taking its inspiration from a boar with a backpack, according to Kia's PR minions. This means a rounded box with slab sides and a snub nose accentuated by new renditions of Kia's trademark tiger nose grille. Squinty lighting now crowns the front end.

Out back, the styling still features the appearance of a colored panel floating in the tailgate, except it's now framed by wider wraparound taillights. The only sour note in its styling is the bit of black plastic on the rear roof pillar that lends the illusion of a "floating roof." This odd idea has become a modern-day styling cliche, a generic bit of laziness that adds nothing to this car's styling moxie. Yet overall, the 2020 Soul finally eschews its cheeky but cheap looks, managing to look costlier than it really is.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Kia Soul

- Base prices: $17,490-$27,490
- Engine: 2.0-liter four-cylinder or 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 147/132 or 201/195
- Torque: 132/201 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 00
- Wheelbase: 102.4 inches
- Length: 165.2 inches
- Ground clearance: 6.7 inches
- Cargo capacity: 24.2-62.1 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 2,802-3,036 pounds

TNS

The styling of the 2020 Kia Soul still features the appearance of a colored panel floating in the tailgate, except it's now framed by wider wraparound taillights.

Practicality

The new wardrobe lends it a larger look. And while its wheelbase grows 1.2 inches, and overall length expands 2.2 inches, width remains unchanged. This allows for a spacious cabin, with a commanding seating position, particularly in the rear seat. As before, headroom is impressive — so if you have a bouffant hairdo, this is your ride. There's also a generous 24.2 cubic foot cargo hold that expands to 62.1 cubic feet with the rear seats folded.

The inside story

The Soul's interior ambience is about what you'd expect for the price. There are soft touch points just where you'd want them. As before, interior accent lighting can be set to pulse with the audio system's music, although now the lighting has been added to the door handles and speaker grilles. Sweet.

A 7.0-inch infotainment touchscreen is standard and includes Bluetooth, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Spendier EX and GT models have a 10.3-inch display providing space for up to 10 apps. Tucked ahead of the transmission shifter is a small space with 12-volt outlets and USB ports. You can add Qi wireless charging to it, making it the perfect place to recharge wireless devices. Kia also offers a head-up display that projects crucial information, such as speed, onto a pop-up panel that pops out on top of the instrument cluster.

That said, deciding on a model has become more complicated now that Kia offers the Soul in double the number of trim levels for 2020, including LX, S, GT-Line, X-Line, EX and GT-Line Turbo.

Behind the wheel

Except for the GT-Line Turbo, an Atkinson-cycle 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with 147 horsepower and 132 pound-feet of torque is standard. It's mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission, although a six-speed dual clutch transmission is available on base LX models. Top-shelf GT-Line Turbos get a turbocharged 1.6-liter four-cylinder and seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission that generates 201 horsepower and 195 pound-feet of torque. Front-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is not offered.

Most buyers will be satisfied with the performance of the base 2.0-liter engine, which furnishes enough power, only becoming a little winded on hills — although the transmission makes up for it. The transmission shifts unobtrusively, and never allows the engine to rev too high, like many continuously variable transmissions. It will also imitate a conventional six-speed automatic, although this seems more gimmicky than helpful. Enthusiasts should consider the GT-Line Turbo. It's extra horsepower and dual clutch gearbox delivers more fun, even if it suffers from a bit of turbo lag. Nevertheless, it will sinfully seduce your soul into flogging the Soul with unremitting passion.

Regardless of which model you choose, you'll find that it's not ultimate power that makes the Soul so impressive, it's the vehicle's nuance and poise. Easy to drive smoothly, it remains poised without undue body motions, thanks to excellent bump absorption and body lean that's held in check while cornering. The numb steering is nicely weighted and precise, and brakes are light in feel but progressive in action. Even with the base powertrain, there's little to no road or tire noise, let alone engine noise.

There are luxury crossovers that don't behave this well. It's a superlative performance, one that was once unthinkable in a Kia. Credit R&D chief Albert Biermann, who formerly ran BMW's M performance division. Biermann, who oversaw this car's engineering, has brought his touch to a number of Kia products, including the new Stinger and K900.

Closing thoughts

Its performance is a transformative trait, one that makes the Kia Soul more than one-trick hamster. It's a superb entry-level subcompact crossover, one with the features and athleticism that belie its price. And as a design statement, it smartly stands apart at a price that won't break the bank.

Life & Style

Emoji gods approve skin-tone options for couples of color

In 1664, Maryland passed the first British colonial law banning marriage between whites and slaves. An 1883 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that state prohibitions on interracial marriage don't violate the Fourteenth Amendment held for more than 80 years.

While such impediments to marriage were dismantled over time, there are still hurdles, however small, to overcome. Here, in 2019, interracial couples have a small victory to celebrate: The approval of 71 new variations of emoji for couples of color.

Capping a yearlong project by, of all people, the folks at the swipe-right dating app Tinder and tech activist group Emojination, the emoji gods (known as the Unicode Consortium) recently approved the additions in characters technically referred to as people "holding hands." A new "gender-inclusive" couple emoji was also approved among 230 new characters.

Until now, emoji of two or more people on various platforms and devices have been available only in the default yellow. While the Unicode Consortium, where Google, Microsoft and Apple have voting seats and Lee is vice-chair of the emoji subcommittee, signed off on the skin-tone additions, user companies will decide for themselves starting later this year whether to add them and how they will look.

Jenny Campbell, the chief marketing officer for Tinder, isn't worried about distribution after the company mounted a campaign and petition drive in support of the technical proposal it submitted to Unicode.

"Ultimately, we wanted to get the interracial emoji couple on people's keyboards not only for equality, but also to spread acceptance for all couples no matter what their race," she told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Our users are craving a way to express themselves visually and see themselves reflected in our everyday tech language."

So are lots of other emoji enthusiasts of color left in the wings for years. More than 50,000 people signed Tinder's online petition at Change.org.

"Unicode is taking user demand for more skin tones across emoji very seriously," said Lee, the co-founder of the grassroots Emojination. "The additional of skin tones, gender variations, hijab and hair styles are part of users around the world demanding to see themselves represented on the emoji keyboard. Diverse couples and families are part of that."

While facial features and hair textures are yet to be determined by some vendors, Tinder said the use of six existing skin tones already available for one-person emoji and various others is a step in the right direction at a time when the text- and chat-friendly characters remain a readily accessible way for the world to express itself. The lack of color options in couples, the company said, felt like a slight.

"Even as our social behaviors have evolved and interracial dating and marriage has become more prevalent, visual representation of these relationships in technology has lagged far behind," Campbell said.

This undated illustration provided by Tinder/Emojination shows new variations of interracial emoji couples. AP

Emoji of single people of color and same-sex couples were added in the last several years, but not in mixed-tone combinations. In real life, the rate of interracial marriage has increased over the years, especially since the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia that struck down all anti-miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states. But such marriages remain a small portion of marriages overall.

Tinder is taking credit for its industry in pushing interracial dating along, citing data that indicates couples who meet online are more likely to be interracial than those who don't.

"We know that equal forms of representation are important to our users," Campbell said, "and important to us."

Skin tones for limited use were added to the Unicode Standard for emoji in 2015. More representation of women in 2016, some "gender-inclusive" people in 2017 and hair color options last year.

Also approved this year: A waffle, a much-requested white heart, a guide dog and people in wheelchairs. Oh, and a sloth. ***(AP)***

Allred: Tape appears to show R. Kelly sexually abusing girls

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who said he was cleaning out an old videotape collection found what he thought was a recording of R& B singer R. Kelly in concert, but instead turned out to show a man who appeared to be Kelly sexually abusing girls, he and his attorney said Sunday.

The man then turned the tape over to law enforcement, according to attorney Gloria Allred. She and her client, Gary Dennis, would not discuss the specifics of the tape during a news conference in New York. But Allred said it appears to show a separate incident from the 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse that Kelly faces in Chicago, though she acknowledged she could not be "100 percent certain" that the man in the tape is Kelly.

Steve Greenberg, an attorney for Kelly, noted that lack of certainty.

"The doubt here is self-evident, with reporting that the man on the tape kinda, sorta looks like R. Kelly," Greenberg said Sunday in an email. "That doesn't make it him. It is not him."

The lawyer also said Kelly "denies that he is on any tape with underaged girls."

"It is obviously now just open season on R. Kelly," Greenberg said.

Dennis, an assistant at a nursing home, said he was cleaning out a box of old VHS tapes in his Pennsylvania home recently when he found the footage, on a tape that was labeled with Kelly's name. Dennis said he has never met Kelly and doesn't know how the tape came to be in his possession. He said that because the tape also has a sports game on it, he believes it may have come from a friend.

"To my shock and surprise, R. Kelly appeared to be on the tape, but not in concert," Dennis said. "Instead he was sexually abusing underaged African-American girls."

"I was disgusted and horrified when I saw that," Dennis said.

Allred said they assume the girls in the video were underage because they didn't appear to have developed.

The charges Kelly faces in Chicago are in connection to three girls and one woman. Prosecutors have said they have video of Kelly sexually abusing one of the girls.

Kelly has been trailed for decades by allegations that he victimized women and girls, and he was acquitted of child pornography charges in 2008 related to a tape that prosecutors said showed him having sex with a girl as young as 13. He and his attorneys have repeatedly denied allegations of sexual misconduct, and he has pleaded not guilty to the charges filed last month in Chicago. In an interview that aired Wednesday and Thursday on "CBS This Morning," Kelly pleaded with viewers to believe that he never had sex with anyone under age 17 and never held anyone against their will.

Allred, who represents women who say they were abused by Kelly, said the tape from Dennis was turned over to law enforcement in the federal Eastern District of New York. She didn't say why it went to that venue. A representative for the office declined to comment.

Allred encouraged anyone who was in possession of similar tapes to come forward, either to her or to law enforcement.

A Chicago police spokesman referred questions about Allred's news conference to the prosecutors handling the case. That office did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

R. Kelly: 'We're going to straighten all this stuff out'

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly walked out of a Chicago jail on Saturday after someone who officials say did not want to be publicly identified paid $161,633 that the R&B singer owed in back child support.

Kelly, who was ordered taken into custody on Wednesday by a judge after Kelly said he didn't have the entire amount he owed, briefly spoke with reporters, telling them: "I promise you, we're going to straighten all this stuff out." He said that was all he could say, a stark contrast to a nationally televised broadcast that aired earlier in the week in which he cried and ranted about being "assassinated" by allegations of sexual abuse that led to criminal charges last month.

Cara Smith, the chief policy officer for the Cook County sheriff's office, which runs the jail, said a person who wished to remain anonymous handed a check on Saturday morning to the county clerk's office for the full amount of Kelly's back child support. A bond slip where people putting up money to secure an inmate's release write their names and relationship to the inmate was left blank, Smith said.

Singer R. Kelly center, walks with his attorney Steve Greenberg right, and an unidentified man left, who gave him a ride after being released from Cook County Jail, March 9, 2019, in Chicago. AP

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, said he could not discuss the child support payment because of a judge's gag order in that case.

As is done with other high-profile inmates, Kelly, 52, was held in a solo cell under round-the-clock observation.

It was his second trip to jail in a matter of weeks and the second time a person has stepped up with money to get Kelly out of jail.

Last month, after he was charged with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse pertaining to three girls and a woman, he was taken to the same jail. Kelly, whose attorney said at the time that the singer's finances were in disarray, then spent a weekend in jail before a 47-year-old suburban Chicago business owner posted his $100,000 bail.

His attorney and publicist told a similar story this week before and after the hearing in which the judge ordered Kelly into custody, with the publicist telling reporters that Kelly was prepared to pay $50,000 to $60,000 on Wednesday but was not able to pay the entire amount.

Kelly has denied any wrongdoing and has pleaded not guilty to the sexual abuse charges. He has also very publicly proclaimed his innocence, telling Gayle King in an interview that aired Wednesday on "CBS This Morning" that all his accusers were lying about him. He also talked about his finances, saying that people had stolen money from his bank accounts, though he offered no details.

‘Captain Marvel’ rockets to historic $153M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—“Captain Marvel,” Marvel Studios’ first female-fronted superhero movie, launched with $153 million domestically and $455 million globally, according to studio estimates Sunday, making it one of the biggest blockbusters ever led by a woman.

Brie Larson’s Carol Danvers, a character who first debuted in Marvel Comics in 1968, had never before made it into the movies and was previously lesser known than many Marvel heroes. But “Captain Marvel,” which came in at the high end of the Walt Disney Co.’s expectations, ranks as one of Marvel’s most successful character debuts.

Only “The Avengers” movies, “Black Panther,” ‘’Captain America: Civil War” and “Iron Man 3” have opened better in the Marvel cinematic universe.

“She definitely pushed us higher, further, faster,” said Disney distribution chief Cathleen Taff.

“Captain Marvel” rocketed up other record books, too. It sets a new worldwide mark for a film directed or co-directed by a woman. “Captain Marvel” was helmed by the filmmaking team of Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who previously made the indies “Half Nelson” and “Mississippi Grind.”

It’s the sixth largest worldwide debut ever. The only movie with a female lead that’s opened better globally was “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” which grossed $529 million when it debuted in 2015.

This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Brie Larson in a scene from “Captain Marvel.” AP

Like the “Force Awakens” sequel “The Last Jedi,” ‘’Captain Marvel” had to tangle with trolls who sought to lessen the film’s impact. Some fans claimed Larson’s hero didn’t smile enough, a charge she responded to with doctored pictures of previous male Marvel superheroes with awkwardly full grins. Others took issue with Larson’s statements about making her press interviews for the film more inclusive and not “overwhelmingly white male.”

The anti-”Captain Marvel” campaign included the flooding of Rotten Tomatoes audience scores, which artificially drove down the film’s score to 55 percent fresh from more than 44,000 votes as of Sunday. To combat the down-voting issue in advance of “Captain Marvel,” Rotten Tomatoes (which doesn’t require users to verify that they’ve seen a movie that they’re scoring) removed the ability to rate movies prior to release.

Taff declined to address “Captain Marvel” foes but applauded Marvel and Kevin Feige for propelling a movie that expanded the Marvel universe.

“What they believe is that the more you diversify perspective and experience in front of and behind the camera, the better the movies and the stories are,” said Taff of Marvel. “You see that in their track record. I think you see that in their box office. And I think you see that in the broadening of their fan base.”

CinemaScore, which relies on interviews with audience members coming out of theaters, found crowds very much liked “Captain Marvel,” giving it an A rating. Reviews were less enthusiastic but still good, landing 79 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

It was easily the best opening of any movie thus far in 2019. The box office had been frigidly cold coming into the weekend with ticket sales down 26 percent, according to Comscore. “Captain Marvel” single-handedly chopped almost 5 percent off that figure with a weekend that overall was up 47 percent from the same last year.

“The box office year of 2019 officially started this weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “We’re going to have one of the biggest box-office years ever but looking at the first two months, you wouldn’t know it.”

Audiences in the U.S. and Canada for “Captain Marvel” were 55 percent male and 45 percent female. International grosses were especially strong, led by $89.3 million in China, where “Captain Marvel” trailed only “Captain America: Civil War” and “Avengers: Infinity War” among Marvel releases.

For Disney, it’s a strong start for a year littered with tentpole releases, some of which are sure to surpass “Captain Marvel,” including: “Avengers: Endgame,” ‘’Toy Story 4,” a remake of “The Lion King” and the next “Star Wars” movie.

Last week’s top film, “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,” slid to a distant second place in its third weekend of release with $14.7 million. In its second weekend, Tyler Perry’s “A Madea Family Funeral” dropped 55 percent with $12 million. It’s made $45.9 million in 10 days.

“Captain Marvel” scared away any new wide releases. Vincent D’Onofrio’s directorial debut, “The Kid,” was largely overlooked by moviegoers. It sold $505,000 of tickets in 268 theaters.

A24’s “Gloria Bell,” Sebastian Lelio’s remake of his own Chilean drama, opened strongly in limited release with $154,775 in five theaters. The film stars Julianne Moore and a middle-aged Los Angeles divorcee.

“Apollo 11,” the acclaimed moon landing documentary featuring newly discovered and restored footage, continued to pack theaters. It made $1.3 million from 285 locations, including many IMAX screens.

Academy Award best-picture winner “Green Book” continued to see one of the largest Oscar bumps in years. It grossed $28.3 million overseas, boosted significantly by $15.7 in its second weekend in China. With $242.2 million worldwide, “Green Book” is the highest grossing best picture-winner since “The King’s Speech.”

1. “**Captain Marvel**,” $153 million ($302 million international).
2. “**How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World**,” $14.7 million ($21.7 million international).
3. “**A Madea Family Funeral**,” $12.1 million.
4. “**Lego Movie 2: The Second Part**,” $3.8 million ($3.9 million international).
5. “**Alita: Battle Angel**,” $3.2 million ($11.6 million international).
6. “**Green Book**,” $2.5 million ($28.3 million international).
7. “**Isn’t it Romantic**,” $2.4 million.
8. “**Fighting With My Family**,” $2.2 million ($1.5 million international).
9. “**Greta**,” $2.2 million.
10. “**Apollo 11**,” $1.3 million.

Smollett indicted on 16 counts stemming from reported attack

CHICAGO (AP)—A grand jury in Chicago indicted “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett on 16 felony counts related to making a false report that he was attacked by two men who shouted racial and homophobic slurs.

The Cook County grand jury indictment dated Thursday and made public on Friday gives details of the disorderly conduct charge against Smollett. It elaborates on the allegation that he falsely reported he was attacked on Jan. 29 by two masked men who hurled racial and homophobic slurs at the black and openly gay actor, beat him, threw an unidentified liquid chemical on him and looped a rope tied like a noose around his neck.

The indictment—eight counts from what he told the officer who responded to the report of the attack and eight for what he later told a detective—comes a little more than two weeks after prosecutors announced one felony count of the same charge.

Chicago police initially investigated the incident as a possible hate crime but later said Smollett staged the attack, recruiting two brothers to carry it out, because he was unhappy with his pay on the Fox show.

An attorney for Smollett, Mark Geragos, called the indictment “prosecutorial overkill.” He said Smollett “adamantly maintains his innocence.”

“This redundant and vindictive indictment is nothing more than a desperate attempt to make headlines in order to distract from the internal investigation launched to investigate the outrageous leaking of false information by the Chicago Police Department,” Geragos said.

During the investigation of the incident, several Chicago media reported that there were doubts about Smollett’s account, quoting unnamed sources. Some local media have reported that the police department is investigating alleged leaks.

While it was not immediately clear why the grand jury indicted Smollett on 16 counts, it divides what prosecutors and police say the actor told the officer who responded to the initial call from what he said to the detective.

For Jussie Smollett, 1 story equals 16 felony counts

CHICAGO (AP)—News that a grand jury had indicted “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett for allegedly lying to Chicago police about being attacked by two masked men may not have made much of a splash except for one thing: The lone felony count that Smollett had been arrested on last month had turned into 16.

Smollett

The reasons Smollett is facing 16 counts rather than just one count of disorderly conduct—the felony in Illinois that people are charged with when accused of lying to police—are not fully explained in the indictment that a grand jury returned Thursday. But legal experts say indictments like that aren’t uncommon in Chicago, and there are some explanations as to how the grand jury could have arrived at the 16 counts, eight of them for Smollett’s comments to a police officer and eight others for what he told a detective.

The first starts with something that has been apparent since Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson briefed reporters last month on the investigation: Authorities are angry at Smollett.

“What you have is a police department and prosecutors that are obviously mad at him for embarrassing the city so they took every one of his lies and made it into another count,” said Terry Sullivan, a prominent local attorney who as a young prosecutor helped convict serial killer John Wayne Gacy in 1980 of killing 33 young men.

Smollett’s attorney, Mark Geragos, called the 16-count indictment “prosecutorial overkill.” But prominent Chicago defense attorney Joseph Lopez, who is not involved in the Smollett case, said it’s the way prosecutors in Chicago do business. “It is common practice for the Cook County state’s attorney to charge as much as they can for any kind of crime,” he said.

A former state appellate judge suggested such a strategy might be employed by prosecutors trying to protect themselves from the possibility that a jury or a judge might believe some, but not all, of the allegations.

O’Rourke documentary provides no hints on possible 2020 run

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Beto O’Rourke is sitting in his kitchen hours after a closer-than-expected Texas Senate race loss to Ted Cruz, musing about how his campaign brought out the best in thousands of supporters.

O’Rourke

“Somehow we’ve got to continue that way,” he tells his wife, Amy, who stares into his face without reply. But then O’Rourke adds, “Maybe we did what we were supposed to do. So maybe that’s it,” to which his wife nods.

The scene concludes “Running with Beto,” a documentary that premiered Saturday at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin about the former congressman’s failed attempt last November to become the first Democrat to win statewide office in deeply conservative Texas in 25 years. But those same questions continue to swirl around a possible O’Rourke 2020 presidential run that may yet grow out of that defeat.

The movie will air on HBO this Spring and illustrates how O’Rourke rose from a virtual unknown—his first events attracted fewer than a dozen attendees, while his early Facebook Live sessions don’t crack double digit viewers—to a national Democratic star.

Filming ended before 2020 speculation really ramped up. O’Rourke now says he’s decided on whether or not he’ll seek the White House, but he won’t say how or when he’ll let everyone know, promising only that it will be soon.

Attending the premiere with his wife, Amy, and young daughter, Molly, O’Rourke dodged an audience member’s 2020 question, and he provided no new details about his future plans in briefly answering reporters’ afterward. He was more open about what he called a happy but visceral reaction to watching his campaign staff and top organizers and volunteers on screen.

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez are engaged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Lopez said yes to Alex Rodriguez's proposal, and with the rock he presented, who could say no?

The couple posted an Instagram photo of their hands with a massive engagement ring on Lopez's ring finger. The former Yankees shortstop captioned his photo with "she said yes" and a heart emoji.

The couple has been dating since early 2017 and later that year landed on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine with their celebrity couple nickname, J-Rod.

In January, Rodriguez told The Associated Press that he and Lopez had similar backgrounds and her latest film "Second Act" reflected the ties that drew them together.

"It really resembles a lot of the arc that Jennifer and I lived in our life: Both born in New York, both come from immigrant parents, both have two children, both Latino Americano—her from Puerto Rico, me from Dominican Republic. We've been through our ups and downs, but here we are in our 40s and trying to live the best lives possible and, at the same time, give back and pay it forward," Rodriguez said.

It will be Lopez's fourth marriage and Rodriguez's second. Each has two children from previous marriages.

AP

In this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, file photo, Alex Rodriguez, left, and Jennifer Lopez arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Whoopi Goldberg says she nearly died from pneumonia

NEW YORK (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg says she nearly died of pneumonia.

Goldberg

Appearing Friday in a video that aired on ABC's "The View," Goldberg told the audience she had pneumonia in both lungs.

Goldberg said: "I came very, very close to, ah, leaving the Earth." She appeared in good condition but said she is still not moving around as fast as she'd like.

The 63-year-old thanked the audience for their good wishes and says she can't wait to return to "The View."

Goldberg has been absent from the talk show, which she co-hosts, since Feb. 6. She did not say when she'll be back.

Diego Maradona's lawyer says ex-star fathered 3 kids in Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Diego Maradona's lawyer says that the former soccer star and current coach of Mexican club Dorados of Sinaloa will legally recognize three children that he fathered in Cuba.

Lawyer Matias Morla told Argentina's Channel 13 television on Friday that he speaks with his client's Cuban children, who were born to two different women. The ex-captain of the Argentine national soccer team also has five other kids.

Asked if Maradona had legally recognized his children on the island, Morla said: "To date, no. But he is going to take care of what he has to do."

Morla didn't give more details but suggested Maradona "would have to appear in court" in Cuba.

The Associated Press could not immediately contact the lawyer, who acts as Maradona's spokesperson.

CNN backs off plan to hire GOP operative for political desk

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN is backing off from its plan to hire a former spokeswoman for Attorney General Jeff Sessions as a politics editor, and will use Sarah Isgur as an analyst on the air instead.

The network received criticism for hiring a political operative for a journalism job with potential influence over how the 2020 presidential campaign is covered.

Isgur announced the change of plans on Twitter Friday, saying she will start next month analyzing politics on air and online.

Isgur, who is a lawyer, also worked for Carly Fiorina's Republican presidential campaign in 2016.

The network confirmed the change in plans, saying Isgur had a change of heart and thought the different job made more sense.

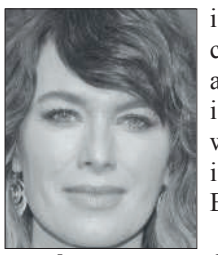
'GoT' star Lena Headey says rejecting Harvey Weinstein hurt her career

By KATE FELDMAN and SHAYNA JACOBS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Lena Headey, one of the earliest accusers of Harvey Weinstein, says rejecting the disgraced Hollywood bigwig caused professional harm.

Headey, who found new success as Cersei Lannister on "Game of Thrones," has claimed that Weinstein propositioned her several times, but said in a recent interview that it took her awhile to realize the effects of having said "no."

"After he was discovered to be a slimeball, on a grander scale than me just knowing it, I did start thinking, 'F—k, maybe because I didn't shag him, that's impacted a decade of my working life,'" the 45-year-old actress told the *Sunday Times*.



Headey

"Because I did two jobs for Miramax before those incidents, and after that there was nothing."

More than 100 women have accused the film producer of sexual assault and harassment. Weinstein has denied accusations of nonconsensual sex.

Headey accused Weinstein in October 2017 of making a "suggestive comment" to her at the 2005 Venice Film Festival, where she was doing press for "The Brothers Grimm."

The actress, who found new success on the HBO drama, wrote on Twitter that she initially laughed off Weinstein's remarks.

"I was genuinely shocked, I remember thinking, it's got to be a joke, I said something like ... oh come on mate?!?? It'd be like kissing my dad!!" she wrote.

The next time he allegedly propositioned her, they met for breakfast in Los Angeles to talk about work, but he kept asking her about her love life, she wrote. After returning from the restroom, Weinstein allegedly told her to go back to his hotel room with him to look at a script.

"I said to Harvey, 'I'm not interested in anything other than work, please don't think I got in (this elevator) with you for any other reason, nothing is going to happen,'" she wrote.

Weinstein then allegedly marched her down the hallway with his hand on her back, but was foiled when he couldn't get his key card to work in the hotel room door.

Man laments that his marriage has gone to the dogs (and cats)

DEAR ABBY: I'm recently married, and in my opinion, my wife has too many pets—seven inside dogs. She also feeds the neighborhood cats, so at any given time of day, there are 10 to 18 cats in our front yard.

The dogs inside have no boundaries. They have taken over the main living space. The family room sofas are filthy and destroyed, so we can't use that space either, and it's a total eyesore. The carpet is gone, and there is dirt and dog hair everywhere.

I'm at my wits' end. I feel I have no say in this matter, and I'm constantly stressed over these living conditions. I hate going home. I have dogs with me when I eat, sleep and make love. I don't know how to approach her on this when she sees nothing wrong with it. All she sees is their cuteness.

LIVING LIKE AN ANIMAL IN PHOENIX

DEAR LIVING: Didn't you know about your wife's love of animals while you were engaged? Explain to her that when you married her, you didn't realize you would be just another occupant in her doghouse. The living conditions you describe are not only stressful, but could also be considered a health hazard.

Contact the city or county and find out whether there are restrictions on the number of animals that homeowners are allowed to keep on their property. (I hope they have all been spayed or neutered!)

As a partner in this marriage, your wishes should be taken into consideration and a compromise worked out. I, too, am concerned about her feeding the ever-increasing number of neighborhood cats, some of which may carry diseases. One problem with leaving food out for strays is it can attract other "critters," which could endanger the cats she is trying to help.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man. My sister and I are best friends. I love her dearly. Long story short, she has now taken her religious beliefs much more seriously (Christianity).

She's married, with three wonderful children (6, 4 and 2 years old) who my partner and I adore. They attend church every weekend, rehearse Bible verses with their children every night and are very active in their community.

My partner and I visit as often as we can to spend time with her and the kids. They live 200 miles away, and the drive is a long one, so we stay overnight. On our last visit, she pulled me aside and expressed how uncomfortable she and her husband have been feeling with the sleeping arrangement. They don't agree with us sleeping in the same room because we are "not married."

I know it's more than that—it is because we are not a straight couple. They said they prefer we sleep in different rooms when we visit them. My partner and I feel devastated, sad and obviously blindsided. We don't know what to do. Can you help?

SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SECOND CLASS: From your description, it's unlikely that your sister and her husband will become more accepting than they are. As I see it, you have no choice but to "turn the other cheek" and spend your nights in a nearby hotel or motel. That may be the sacrifice you have to make to maintain your close relationship with the kids. If you and your partner eventually decide to marry, do not be surprised if it does not change the situation.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY MOTOR BROKE! THE PIECE SNAPPED! NOW MY BEANIE PROPELLER WON'T WORK!!
AAGHHGHHH! I WAITED WEEKS FOR THIS AND NOW IT'S BROKEN, AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO WEAR IT! STUPID ROTTEN PIECE OF LOUSY JUNK!!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! RRGHH GHHGH!
MY FAULT?! I WAS JUST SITTING HERE! YOU BROKE IT!
YOU WILLED ME TO BREAK IT! YOU DID SOME SUBLIMINAL THING! DON'T DENY IT! I KNOW YOU DID! YOU MUST HAVE!
OK. NOW I'M WILLING YOU TO GO JUMP IN THE SEPTIC TANK.
8-12 WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHY DOES EVERYONE SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON THEIR PHONES?
LET ME LOOK THAT UP
TAP TAP
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, LOOK UP "IRONY"
TAP TAP
JIM DAVIS 3-12

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, KATY. LET ME HEAR YOU SING SOMETHING QUICK AND SIMPLE.
OKAY.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOOO YOUU!
JUST... GIVE ME A SECOND.
SURE. HEARING THE VOICE OF A GENERATION FOR THE FIRST TIME MUST BE A BIG MOMENT.
3/12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TODAY'S THE DAY I GET OUT OF FACEBOOK JAIL.
NOW I CAN TRY TO MAKE SOME NEW FEMALE FRIENDS AGAIN.
I THINK YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK THIS TIME IF DON'T TELL THEM YOU'RE AN EX-CON.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

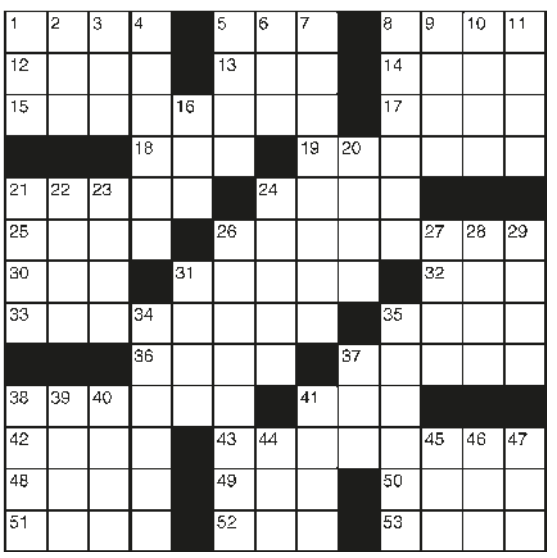
ACROSS
1 Offend
5 Vegas lead-in
8 Biting remark
12 Jacob's twin
13 Antlered animal
14 Latin love
15 Printout
17 Earring site
18 Roscoe
19 More slothful
21 Filled fully
24 — colada
25 Cupid's alias
26 Street vendor's vehicle
30 Sawbuck
31 Attorney's load
32 Bee follower
33 Barber's offerings
35 Panache
36 Aachen article
37 Utter impulsively
38 Architectural style
41 Hero sandwich
42 Actress Perlman
43 Ski lodge cupful
48 "A Room of — Own"
49 Prior night
50 Not so hot?
51 "Holy cow!"
52 Enervate
53 Trade

DOWN
1 "I'm not impressed"
2 "This — recording"
3 Distant
4 Fakes, as figures
5 Author Uris
6 Jungfrau, for one
7 Urban silhouettes
8 French novelist
9 Mine, to Marcel
10 Judicial garb
11 Rabbit's title
16 Cow's chaw
20 &&&&
21 Actor Rogen
22 Location
23 Singer Braxton
24 Stickum
26 Hindquarters
27 Rights advocacy org.
28 Bring up
29 Bivouac shelter
31 Roman 202
34 Go over again
35 Macaroni shapes
37 Tampa Bay NFLer
38 Pirate's drink
39 "It can't be!"
40 Golf props
41 Dance move
44 Eggs
45 Cornfield noise
46 Mouths (Lat.)
47 Music booster

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	A	P		B	R	C	W	N		L	A	B
R	T	E		E	E	R	I	E		A	M	A
S	E	A	O	F	L	C	V	E		K	O	S
			A	A	A		E	D	G	E	R	S
I	G	O	I	I			S	E	A	I		
O	R	C		R	E	B		D	F	A	M	A
T	E	E	M		D	E	A		F	H	I	L
A	W	A	I	T		D	I	P		O	S	E
		N	C	I	S		R	E	C	E	S	S
E	S	C	H	E	W		H	A	D			
A	H	I		R		V	E	R	S	I	D	E
R	O	T		C	N	F	A	I		F	U	N
S	O	Y		D	E	E	C	S		S	O	D

Yesterday's answer 3-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaimie Alexander, 35; Aaron Eckhart, 51; Courtney B. Vance, 59; Liza Minnelli, 73.

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination wander. You'll come up with some splendid ideas, but before you get started, source out the costs involved and adjust to fit your budget. You can accomplish a lot if you think matters through and follow your heart and your intuition. Be yourself, and incorporate simplicity and practicality into your plans to get good results. Your numbers are 2, 13, 21, 26, 32, 34, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take your time and make decisions based on facts. It's OK to think big, but in the end, sticking to what you know you can handle will bring you closer to the achievements you want long-term. Don't let impatience be your demise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be sympathetic toward others. Not everyone will have the same skills or desires as you. Looking out for the underdog will prove to be helpful down the road when you need a favor. Planning will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your personal plans a secret. If someone gets wind of what you are up to, he or she will disrupt you. Trust in yourself, and keep your personal life a secret from those you work alongside. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You have what it takes to solicit the help and backing you need to get what you want. Partnerships are favored as long as you keep things equal when it comes to the financial aspect of your relationship. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put greater emphasis on how you look, feel and relate to the people you care about most. Don't let a disagreement ruin your connection with someone special. Be willing to compromise and to offer incentives that will deter a standoff. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get out, participate and discover what others have to offer. Your curiosity will assist you in discovering something that will help you rethink your plans. With a couple adjustments, you can save some cash and get what you want. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do something you find enjoyable and educational. Making a change to the way you live should be geared toward cutting your overhead and freeing up cash for vacations or other forms of entertainment that interest you. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get involved in something that will bring you in contact with interesting people. A unique relationship will spark your imagination and encourage you to follow your dreams. Explore the possibilities, but don't take a risk that could lead to injury or insult. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll tend to overreact or give in to temptation. Before heading down a path that isn't going to amount to much, rethink your options and choose self-improvement. You'll find a way to get back on track. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Seize the moment and follow through with your plans. Channel your energy into making more money, cutting your overhead and easing any stress you've encountered. Personal gain will be yours if you apply discipline and work hard. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take a moment to consider what's going on around you. It may be difficult to see clearly if you let someone cloud your vision. Look for facts, not an adaptation of what someone wants you to see. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Getting together with old friends or colleagues can be informative as long as you stick to the truth and don't overdo it. The best results will come from being thoughtful, practical and assertive. Know what you want, and make it happen. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, popular and entertaining. You are intelligent and outgoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		9			7		
				6				2
7		1	2			4		
	1			2		9		8
6		3		7			1	
		8			7	2		3
3			5					
		7			1		8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	5	8	9	3	2	7	1
9	2	8	1	4	7	5	6	3
1	3	7	6	5	2	9	8	4
2	8	1	4	6	9	7	3	5
3	7	4	2	8	5	6	1	9
6	5	9	7	3	1	4	2	8
8	4	3	9	7	6	1	5	2
7	9	2	5	1	8	3	4	6
5	1	6	3	2	4	8	9	7

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ZYZZYVAS Solution: 7 letters

E	C	I	R	S	G	N	I	W	P	T	A	T	T
V	A	E	L	T	E	E	B	O	A	S	N	R	H
I	E	N	O	T	S	L	X	R	L	E	I	O	I
T	L	A	N	I	F	F	A	D	M	N	M	P	C
A	I	L	E	E	O	N	E	C	S	A	A	I	K
N	Z	I	L	R	T	N	G	E	S	D	L	C	L
A	A	V	D	A	S	N	C	C	A	O	B	A	R
T	R	E	S	E	M	T	A	O	W	O	L	L	E
U	B	E	D	N	A	S	R	C	C	W	L	A	S
R	T	W	I	G	E	B	R	O	H	C	N	A	R
E	G	G	S	Y	R	A	N	O	I	T	C	I	D
L	L	E	P	S	W	V	V	N	I	G	I	R	O
N	I	T	A	L	E	A	F	L	I	G	H	T	T
S	G	O	L	X	L	H	R	E	D	N	E	L	S
N	U	T	S	G	E	L	Y	M	O	N	O	X	A

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Animal, Antennae, Bark, Beetle, Branch, Brazil, Bright, Broad, Casey, Convex, Crawl, Dense, Dictionary, Dots, Eggs, Final, Flight, Insect, Last, Latin, Legs, Logs, Native, Nature, Nest, Nuts, Origin, Oval, Oxford, Palms, Rice, Sand, Scales, Slender, Small, Snout, Spell, Stone, Taxonomy, Thick, Thomas, Tropical, Twig, Weevil, Wings, Wood, Word, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Discharge

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 39 through 54, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Aquaville

(1) Manager
At Least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Marketing Strategies and oversee new trends in marine sports.

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY OWNERS
Location: Talafofo area close to Kingfisher
SQ. Meters 2086/82
Interested person please call this number:
H: (670) 234-6343
C: (670) 783-1946

L.C. CONSTRUCTION
IS LOOKING FOR
(3) GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKERS
Rate: $7.25 - $7.50 per hour
With at least 5 years experience.
Must be able to work flexible hours.
With valid driver's license.
IF INTERESTED, SEND RESUME TO:
lcconstruction48@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AUTO MARINE INC.

is in need of:
(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Diesel Engines
(2) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job
(1) Carpenter
(1) Maintenance Repairer
(1) Accountant
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Preparing Financial Status of the company

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AM MACHINE SHOP

is in need of:
(5) MACHINIST
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in fabrication and modifying parts

(2) CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN
At least 3 years experience

(2) WELDER
At least 3 years experience

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-0102

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Macs Marine

is in need of:
(1) Commercial Diver
At least 3 years experience
in Scuba Diving

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable
in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

Duenas Camacho & Associates, Incorporated
has an opening for:

One (1) Survey Instrument Man

Minimum Qualification: Associate's degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent).

Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assist in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. May supervise aide assisting survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects. Required to travel to MSA of Rota, NMI and MSA of Tinian, NMI to perform work.

If interested, send resume to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to jppangelinan@dcaguam.com or by fax at 670-234-3824. Proof of qualifications required.

Mathew T. Gregory, Esq., F0205
LAW OFFICE OF MATHEW T. GREGORY, LLC
Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza
Nauru Loop, Susupe
PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-9006/5 • Fax No. 670-235-9007
Email: matt@gregoryfirm.com
Attorney for Petitioner Chang, Huei Yin

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JANG CHUEN HUEI, Deceased.) **CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0169**) **NOTICE OF HEARING**) **Date: 03/21/19**) **Time: 9:00 AM**) **Judge: Honorable Joseph N. Camacho**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF JANG CHUEN HUEI, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Chang, Huei Yin**, Executor of the Estate of Jang Chuen Huei, has filed with the Superior Court a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The **Attorney of Record** is the **Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC, Suite 603 Marianas Business Plaza, PMB 419, Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 21st day of March, 2019 at 9 a.m. at the Superior Court in Suite 212, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2019.
PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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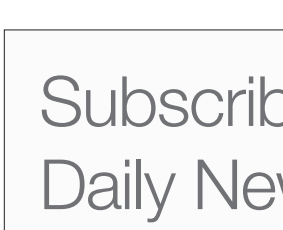

WHATZIT Solution: Not before time

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SHEEPSHANK GMT

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Find today's solution in classified section

Molinari cards 64 in final round to win at Bay Hill

ORLANDO (AP)—Francesco Molinari delivered another big moment on the 18th green at Bay Hill, without wearing a red shirt and leaving the flag stick in the cup. His 45-foot birdie putt capped off an 8-under 64 to come from five shots behind Sunday and win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Molinari watched the birdie putt kiss off the pin and into the cup, and the normally reserved Italian raised his fist and hammered it down in celebration, knowing that would make him hard to beat.

He started so far back that Molinari finished nearly two hours before the round ended. It gave him a two-shot lead at 12-under 276, and no one got closer than two shots the rest of the way.

"To do it here at Arnie's place, knowing my wife and kids are watching from home, it's very special," Molinari said.

He won for the fourth time in the last nine months, and in his first start since signing a new equipment deal.

Tiger Woods, who missed this week with a sore neck, has delivered so many birdie putts over the year on the 18th, usually to win and with Palmer on the side of the green waiting to congratulate him. Molinari's was longer than anything Woods ever made, from a slightly different angle. But he knew the history from so many highlights.

"It's a pretty iconic putt," he said. "I'm pretty sure I'm the first guy to make it with the flag in, though, so that's the real difference."

The new Rules of Golf allow the flag to be left in for putts in the green, and most players leave it there on long putts.

AP

Francesco Molinari of Italy poses with the championship trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

"Obviously, you're trying to lag it close to the hole and it came out on a great line and maybe a little firmer than I wanted, but the line was just right and incredible to see it going in," he said. "I've seen so many putts on TV like that and to do it yourself it's really amazing."

Matthew Fitzpatrick managed only two birdies in his round of 1-under 71 and made a 3-foot par putt to finish alone in second. Rory McIlroy started the final round one shot behind and never got anything going. He had two birdies, two bogeys and a 72 to tie for sixth.

Perhaps it was only fitting that the claret jug was at Bay Hill, which served as part of the Open Qualifying Series. Sung Kang also had a big putt on the 18th hole, this one from 12 feet for par that sewed up the third and final spot offered for The Open Championship at Royal Portrush this summer.

The other two spots went to Sungjae Im, the 20-year-old South Korean who closed with a 68 and tied for third; and The Honda Classic winner Keith Mitchell, who made eight birdies in his final round of 66 to tie for sixth.

Tommy Fleetwood, who shared the 36-hole lead at Bay Hill, recovered from a 76 that knocked him out of contention by closing with a 68 to join Im at 9-under 279 along with Rafa Cabrera Bello (69).

"I was just trying to hit good shots, give myself chances," Molinari said. "I knew it was not going to be easy. The course was firm and fast yesterday and I knew it wasn't going to be easy for the guys in the lead, so I thought there was an outside chance. And yeah, just started making putts, one of my best putting rounds ever."

It was another disappointment for McIlroy, who has played in the final group in three of his five PGA Tour events, and for the ninth time without winning dating to the start of 2018. He rallied from two back to win at Bay Hill a year ago.

This time, he was in good position just one shot behind Fitzpatrick. But after a 25-foot birdie putt on the third hole to briefly tie for the lead, McIlroy played the next 12 holes with two bogeys and 10 pars.

Woods headed to The Players after neck strain

ORLANDO, Fla.—Tiger Woods is going to The Players Championship.

The PGA Tour announced Sunday that Woods is scheduled for a news conference Tuesday ahead of the PGA Tour's flagship event that starts Thursday at TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Citing a neck strain, Woods, 43, withdrew Monday from the Arnold Palmer Invitational, which he's won a record eight times. In two tweets, Woods wrote that his back was fine, and he had been receiving treatment for his neck.

Earlier this week, Rory McIlroy said he saw Woods receiving treatment before and after each round in the WGC-Mexico Championship three weeks ago, and that Woods was wearing KT Tape on his upper back.

Woods has made no public statements since withdrawing from the Arnold Palmer Invitational. He is committed to The Players but reserves the right to withdraw up until his tee time on Thursday.

Woods has made three starts this season – he finished in a tie for 20th in the Farmers Insurance Open, in a tie for 15th at the Genesis Open and in a tie for 10th in the Mexico Championship.

NFL at 100: Another labor stoppage looms in 2 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Eight years ago at this time, when the NFL was hitting a mere 91 and counting, discord between players and owners reached such a fevered state that the league locked out the union.

Two years from now, when the NFL heads into its 102nd season, it could happen again.

Yes, pro football as a business is healthy. Incredibly so, with revenues beyond $14 billion, TV ratings up and modern stadiums nearly everywhere. But the money-filled pot the league and its players share is beginning to heat up if not exactly boil. The boil could come in 2021, when the 10-year labor deal struck to end the 2011 lockout itself concludes.

It's difficult to argue that the current CBA hasn't been profitable for the people who own the 32 clubs and the hundreds of guys who play for them and are earning seven—and for some, eight—figures a year. It's also impossible to maintain that these are peaceful times overall, with the union and league at odds over nearly every issue, from players' rights to protest, to disciplinary powers for the commissioner, to roster size, to length of schedule.

The 2011 work stoppage seemed a certainty from the time in 2008 that the owners opted out of an agreement reached in 2006—the final bargaining act between then-Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and union boss Gene Upshaw. Negotiations sputtered until just after midnight on March 12, 2011, when NFLPA President Kevin Mawae, in a simple text to The Associated Press, said "We are locked out."

And they were for 132 days into late July; there was a brief respite by court order that then was overturned. A deal probably could have been reached in a far shorter time, but the union complicated matters by decertifying so it could bring an antitrust lawsuit against the league.

"The lockout, it was not inevitable, it was likely," says Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp, a Chicago-based consulting firm, and an adviser to several team owners. "All parties could demonstrate to their constituencies how strong their resolve was to fight for them. For the players, it became be careful what you wish for. They won the first round in a Minnesota court, then it was reversed. The original decision was flat-out wrong and that is why it was reversed. But all of that extended the period by which they were in court and not negotiating."

When there were negotiations, whether in Washington, New York, New England and points elsewhere, they tended to be contentious.

Then, as Ganis notes, "The calendar came up."

The sides had moved into July with some but not enough progress toward an agreement. Training camps were scheduled to open in a few weeks, followed by preseason games that, while despised by veteran players and ignored by lots of fans, are extremely lucrative for owners.

Both sides got serious, dropped the posturing and, by July 14, the parameters of a deal were reached. A week later, the owners voted 31-0 (Oakland abstained) to approve the 10-year CBA, and the players soon after ratified it.

Why 10 years?

"For the last five or six months, we've been talking about the business of football," said Patriots owner Robert Kraft, a key figure in the settlement. "But the end result is, we've been able to have an agreement that I think is going to allow this sport to flourish over the next decade."

Federer gets brief scare at Indian Wells

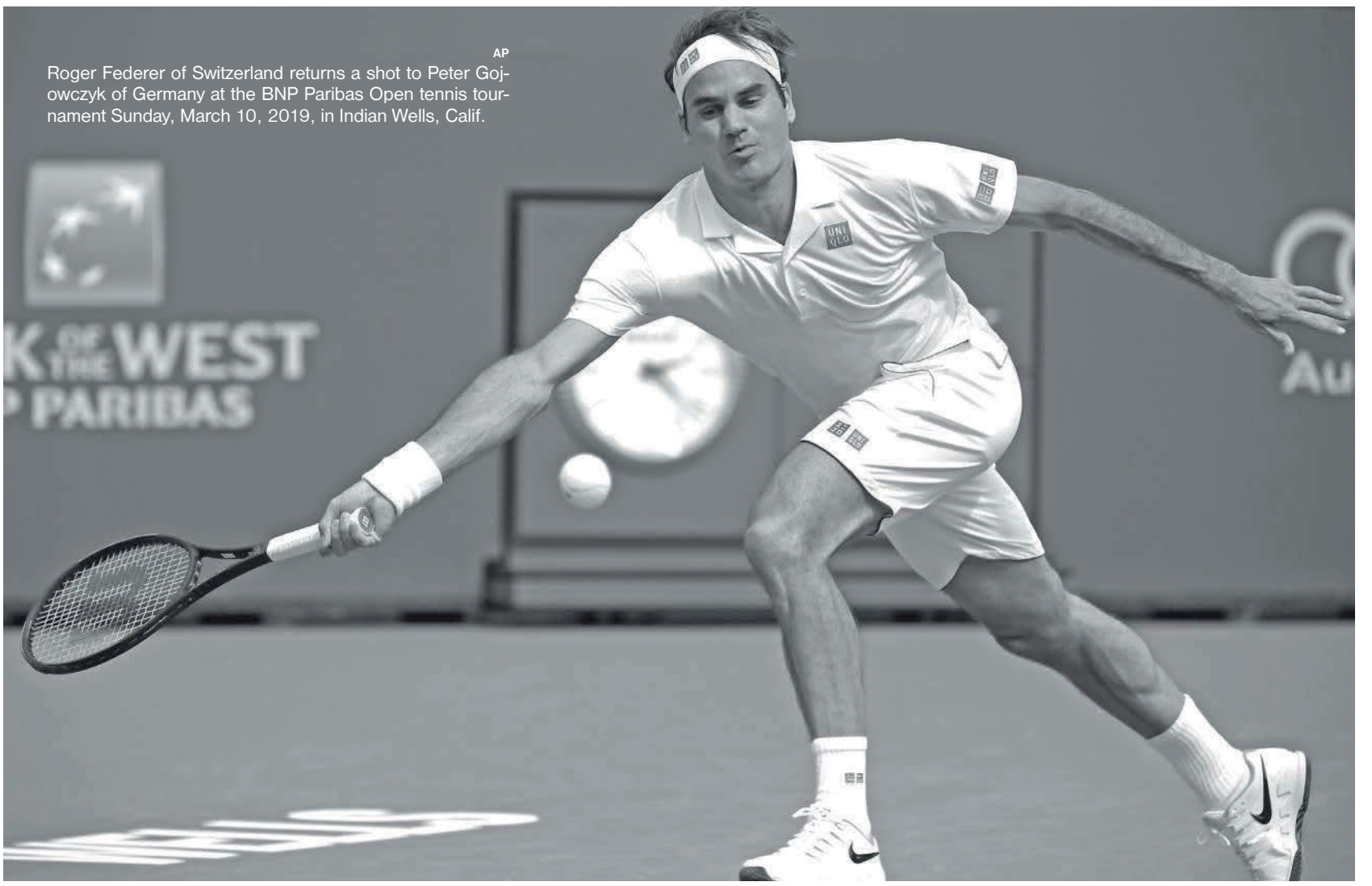
CALIFORNIA (AP)—It started as a walk in the park and ended in a tight battle, but Roger Federer had a successful start on his road to a potential sixth BNP Paribas Open title.

Federer stormed out to win the first five games Sunday on Stadium 1 at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, then had to fight back in the second set for a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Peter Gojowczyk in Federer's first match of the 2019 tournament.

"I think fighting in the second set trying to withstand his shot making," a pleased Federer said of the victory. "He was really going for big shots, and I think I was making the plays in the first set, and he was doing a really good job in the second set. And he started to serve better."

Federer was untested in the first set, going out to a 5-0 lead while winning 16 of 18 service points in the set. He used a variety of shots to win points, including a series of dropshots. Between games, Federer looked like a man playing a casual recreational round in the desert.

"(The) priority was to hit a couple of dropshots," Federer said of his early success. "I was able to do that early on to just see how that worked, and it did. And then I don't know why I couldn't do it later on anymore, but I think it had something to do with the opponent.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot to Peter Gojowczyk of Germany at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif.

"Very often, it has a lot to do with the opponent, what you're able to do, because opponents usually play the way you don't want to have to," Federer said.

The change in the second set was caused by more than just Federer not executing dropshots, though. Gojowczyk won three of the first four games as Federer struggled at times to keep the ball in play. Gojowczyk had several chances to put Federer away in the set, but Federer held off numerous break points to stay in touch with the 85th-ranked player in the world.

"I played well in the first set and he didn't, and then things go very quickly. The second set I think he saved some crucial break points, you know, with good serving. His serve really picked up," Federer said. "I think I struggled a little bit with my serving in that second set and that gave him chances. Because he was serving better, he started to swing more freely, and, you know, then it was tough."

Federer had beaten Gojowczyk in their only other meeting in Cincinnati last year, but that was a tough 6-4, 6-4 win for Federer. Gojowczyk proved tough again for Federer on Sunday, with Federer falling behind 4-5 in the set before winning the final three games to close out a straight-set win that was anything but routine.

The loss continues a tough 2019 season for Gojowczyk, who had already suffered three first-round losses this year and withdrew from the Montpellier tournament with an illness.

While few people have as much experience or success at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden as Federer, the Swiss star admitted he was pleased to get some work on the Stadium 1 court at the start of the tournament.

"I'm really happy I found a way in that second set, actually," Federer said. "It's normal to not quite find your zones sometimes on the serve, or whatever it may be, because the ball flies differently here in Indian Wells than it did in Dubai again.

"Again, the conditions today are different than they were the last few days," he said. "The ball doesn't always exactly drop where you want it to be. For the first round, I actually felt really good."

Federer is not only looking for his sixth BNP Paribas Open, he's also looking to reach the finals for the fifth consecutive time he's played in the Indian Wells event. His last win in the desert was in 2017, but he also reached the finals in 2014, 2015 and 2018. He did not play in the 2016 tournament.

Illness forces Serena to retire

Serena Williams is out of the BNP Paribas Open, having to retire with what was officially described as a viral illness during her third-round match against Garbine Muguruza.

Williams led the first set 3-0 only to see Muguruza rattle off six consecutive games to earn the 6-3 win.

During the changeover between sets, Williams sought a trainer, who worked on her and checked her blood pressure. After a delay she went out to play the second set. She played one game, which Muguruza won, and then walked slowly to her chair. After another quick check, the match was called.

Williams walked off the court under her own power. The tournament announced about an hour and a half later that the official diagnosis was a "viral illness."

"Before the match, I did not feel great, and then it just got worse with every second; extreme dizziness and extreme fatigue," Williams said in a statement released by the tournament. "By the score, it might have looked like I started well, but I was not feeling at all well physically. I will focus on getting better and start preparing for Miami."

The shocking turn of events left the packed Stadium Court stunned.

Muguruza said she sensed at the end of the first set that something might not be right with Williams.

"Yeah, at the end of the first set, I felt that maybe she wasn't feeling well," said Muguruza, who now holds a 3-3 career record against Williams.

The 25-year-old Spaniard said this isn't the way she wanted to win, but said she does feel good about her own game.

"I don't know. It's really a weird feeling, because I don't feel like I won the match point and (get the) well done, you know, good match (handshake). It was just like, 'Man, we'll play next time.' Yeah, I think I played well one set. I'm going to take the positive side of that."

This is the fourth time Williams has played at Indian Wells since returning in 2015 after a 15-year boycott. And this will mark the second time during that stretch she's had to retire with an injury. In her first time back, she advanced to the semifinals before pulling out of the tournament before her match against Simona Halep. Williams also missed the 2017 event here due to her pregnancy.

It was clear during the end of the first set that Williams was not herself. She lost power on her serve and her mobility seemed compromised. She looked nothing like she did Friday when she showed her A-game in a 7-5, 6-3 win over Victoria Azarenka.

It looked like Williams still had that fine form at the start of Sunday's match as she won the first three games in impressive fashion, moving well and hitting the same winners she was hitting Friday night. But Muguruza upped her game, broke back, and had a fantastic service game to tie the first set at 3-3 where she hit three winners and an unreturnable serve. It was at about this time when Williams seemed to lose her energy quickly, she wasn't able to run after balls and her serves were all arm and with little power.

FIFA head to push for new Club World Cup

BERLIN—Gianni Infantino wants to speed up plans for a new Club World Cup and abolish the Confederations Cup at next week's FIFA council meeting in Miami, according to German broadcaster ZDF.

The report says FIFA president Infantino wants to discuss expanding the Club World Cup from it's current format of seven teams to 24, including 12 sides from Europe on Thursday and Friday in the US.

The Swiss also reportedly wants to scrap the Confederations Cup, an international tournament held the year before a World Cup by the host nation and last won by Germany in Russia in 2017.

According to the ZDF report, the new-look Club World Cup would be held from 2021, a year before Qatar hosts the 2022 World Cup.

"Yes, that's the way it will come about, we want to say goodbye to the Club World Cup (in it's current format) and we will make that decision," Fernando Sarney, Brazil's member of the FIFA Council, told ZDF.

According to the report, Infantino also wants to delay plans to introduce a global Nations League until a later date.

European football's governing body UEFA has so far opposed the introduction of a new Club World Cup from 2021 in an already congested fixture list.

Meanwhile, FIFA has been urged to launch an investigation amid claims world football's governing body was offered a secret television deal by Qatar's state-run broadcaster Al-Jazeera just three weeks before it awarded the 2022 World Cup to the Gulf state.

Documents published by *The Sunday Times* appear to show that executives from Al Jazeera signed the television contract as the bidding campaigns to host the World Cup came to a close.

The alleged contract included a fee of $100 million (£77 million) that would be paid into a designated FIFA account if Qatar was successful in the World Cup ballot in 2010.

Durant injures ankle as Suns stun Warriors

OAKLAND— Golden State delivered the first punch in building a 16-point lead in the first quarter—but didn't knock Phoenix out.

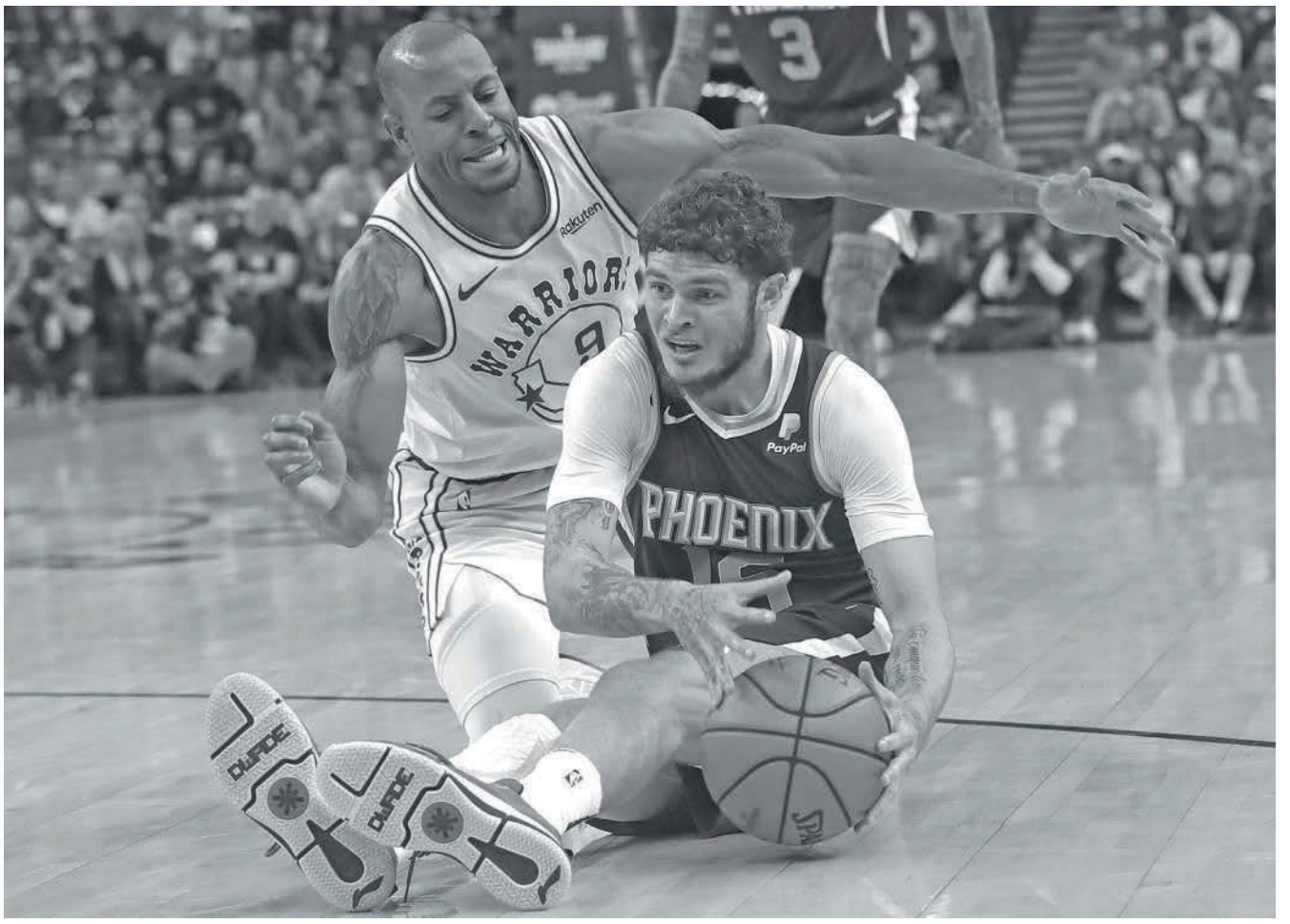
The Suns came back swinging at the two-time defending NBA champions and took them down in stunning fashion, 115-111 before a sellout crowd of 19,596 at Oracle Arena on Sunday.

"Big time," Suns forward Kelly Oubre Jr. said. "We came in, we fought, we were down 16. We still fought. We came up with a big win against the best team in the NBA. It shows our growth. It shows that all the things that we've been through, we're putting it into motion now, so I'm proud of our guys."

Devin Booker scored a game-high 37 points to go along with 11 assists and eight rebounds as Phoenix (16-52) bounced back from a 127-120 loss Saturday night at Portland in which it trailed by as many as 29 to beat Golden State on the road in the second game of back-to-back.

"We locked in and chipped away and slowly but surely, played the right way and the score did what it was supposed to do when you play the right way," Booker said. "Trusted each other, communicated, and fought to the end."

Phoenix snapped an 18-game losing skid to Golden State (45-21).



AP

Phoenix Suns guard Tyler Johnson, right, tries to control the ball on the floor as he is guarded by Golden State Warriors guard Andre Iguodala during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, March 10, 2019.

76ers 106, Pacers 89

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 33 points and 12 rebounds in his first game in nearly a month, leading the 76ers past the Indiana Pacers.

Embiid returned to the lineup after being sidelined by a sore left knee. The Sixers went 4-4 without the All-Star center as they battle for a top-four seed in the Eastern Conference.

With Embiid back, the Sixers (42-25) moved into a tie with Indiana for third in the East, and they hold the tiebreaker over the Pacers by virtue of their 3-1 record in the season series.

Rockets 94, Mavericks 93

In Dallas, Eric Gordon scored 26 points and Chris Paul blocked Jalen Brunson's jumper in the final seconds, sending Houston to its eighth straight win.

James Harden shook off foul trouble to score 20 points for the Rockets. Clint Capela added 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Dallas lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Luka Doncic had 19 points and a career-high 15 rebounds for the Mavericks, and fellow rookie Brunson finished with 18 points.

Doncic appeared to hurt his left knee in the fourth quarter and limped off the court for a timeout with 4:17 to play, but he stayed in the game.

Raptors 125, Heat 104

In Miami, Kyle Lowry had 24 points and 10 assists, Pascal Siakam scored 20 and Toronto tied a franchise record with 21 3-pointers.

The Raptors finished with eight players in double figures. Danny Green scored 15 points, all on 3-pointers. Norman Powell also scored 15, and OG Anunoby and Jeremy Lin each scored 11.

Toronto's only other game with 21 3s was against Philadelphia in 2005.

Bam Adebayo scored 19 for the Heat, who had won four in a row. Dion Waiters and Dwyane Wade each scored 15, and Rodney McGruder added 13.

Pistons 131, Bulls 108

In Detroit, Blake Griffin scored 17 of his 28 points in the third quarter, helping Detroit to its fifth straight win.

Detroit has won 12 of 14 to take a half-game lead over Brooklyn for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Pistons and Nets play Monday night in Brooklyn.

Reggie Jackson scored 21 points for Detroit, and Andre Drummond added 16 points and 15 rebounds.

Hawks 128, Pelicans 116

In Atlanta, Kevin Huerter scored 17 of his 27 points in the second quarter, taking the scoring load from cold-shooting fellow rookie Trae Young, and Atlanta stopped a three-game slide.

The Hawks also got a solid all-around performance from John Collins, who finished with 23 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots. Young had 10 points and 10 assists while shooting only 2 of 14.

Frank Jackson and Julius Randle each scored 23 points for the Pelicans, who have lost three straight. Elfrid Payton had 15 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Grizzlies 105, Magic 97

In Memphis, Mike Conley scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, helping Memphis to its third straight win.

Avery Bradley had 21 points for the Grizzlies, and CJ Miles finished with 13 points. It's the first three-game win streak for Memphis since it won five in a row in mid-November.

Nikola Vucevic led the Magic with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Terrence Ross added 15 points.

Spurs 121, Bucks 114

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 15 rebounds, and the Spurs rallied for their fifth straight win.

San Antonio has beaten the top three teams in the East at home after topping Philadelphia in December and Toronto in January.

Milwaukee's lead atop the Eastern Conference was cut to two games ahead of Toronto.

Timberwolves 103, Knicks 92

In Minneapolis, Taj Gibson scored a season-high 25 points, powering short-handed Minnesota to the win.

Jeff Teague had 20 points and 10 assists for the Timberwolves. Rookie Keita Bates-Diop scored a career-high 18 points.

Minnesota played without two of its top three scorers. All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns was sidelined by right knee inflammation, while forward Andrew Wiggins sat out with a thigh contusion.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	48	19	.716	—
Philadelphia	42	25	.627	6
Boston	41	26	.612	7
Brooklyn	35	33	.515	13½
New York	13	54	.194	35

Southeast Division

Miami	31	35	.470	—
Orlando	31	37	.456	1
Charlotte	30	36	.455	1
Washington	27	39	.409	4
Atlanta	23	45	.338	9

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	50	17	.746	—
Indiana	42	25	.627	8
Detroit	34	31	.523	15
Chicago	19	49	.279	31½
Cleveland	16	50	.242	33½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	41	25	.621	—
San Antonio	38	29	.567	3½
New Orleans	30	39	.435	12½
Memphis	28	40	.412	14
Dallas	27	39	.409	14

Northwest Division

Denver	43	22	.662	—
Oklahoma City	40	26	.606	3½
Portland	40	26	.606	3½
Utah	37	28	.569	6
Minnesota	32	35	.478	12

Pacific Division

Golden State	45	21	.682	—
L.A. Clippers	38	29	.567	7½
Sacramento	33	32	.508	11½
L.A. Lakers	30	36	.455	15
Phoenix	16	52	.235	30

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All about LeBron: Where does Lakers star go from here?

The year was 2005. No one had an iPhone. No one had tweeted. Facebook wasn't part of the mainstream.

And it was the last time the NBA playoffs didn't have LeBron James.

The Los Angeles Lakers aren't mathematically eliminated from postseason consideration yet, but it's only a matter of time. For the first time in 14 years, the postseason will begin without James—and for the first time in nine years, the NBA Finals will be played without him.

It will be a very long offseason for James.

It is not what he envisioned, either.

"It's challenging," James said of the current state of the Lakers. "But I kind of knew what I was getting myself into."

That's not entirely true. He knew it would be difficult but he couldn't have foreseen anything like this, since the only other losing season of his life came when he was a rookie in 2003-04.

Thing is, he doesn't possibly know what comes next. No one does. The offseason will see roster change, top free agents to play alongside James will be pursued hard by Rob Pelinka and Magic Johnson, and it will not be a surprise if the Lakers decide Luke Walton isn't the right coach anymore.

But the key for the 2019-20 Lakers—obviously—is going to be James. The grind of eight straight runs to the NBA Finals is over. He's about to get six months off to rest, recover, reset, heal, think, plot, prepare. It's been a long time since that happened, and at this point in his career it might be precisely what he needs.

"Rest is going to help," said Miami guard Dwyane Wade, one of James' closest friends. "I think the biggest thing with him is probably mental, the mental break from it. Physically, obviously, he's getting older but he's still very good at this game. Look at his numbers. They're still very good. But he's been going at it for a long time, so to get away from it and kind of look at it from a different lens, it'll definitely help."

It has been proven that setbacks inspire James.

Miami lost the 2011 NBA Finals in his first season with the Heat. Fueled by that, he came back the next year better than ever, and his fingerprints smudged the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the first time in 2012. Cleveland lost the 2015 finals in his first year back there, and he carried that all the way to winning the 2016 title.

Of course, he was younger then.

He'll turn 35 in December. Next season is his 17th in the NBA. Does he have the ability to engineer the sort of turnaround that LA needs?

Kevin Love, his former Cleveland teammate, has no doubt.

"Just having that break, being able to reassess and come back really, really highly motivated, I think it's going to be big for him," Love said. "If you get Bron highly motivated, anything can happen."

GCA pounds Agape to gain second victory

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan is hounded by Agape Christian School defenders during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

Grace Christian Academy smothered Agape Christian School, 55-36, in the girls division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the latter's court in Gualo Rai.

The Lady Eagles dominated the match right from the get-go, thanks to Jasmine Phan's early explosion. She scored 18 of GCA's 20 first-quarter points to give the Lady Eagles a double-digit lead, 20-8. GCA never looked back from thereon.

Phan went on to finish the game with 36 points, 18 of them were scored off 3-pointers. Karena Torres joined the Lady Eagles' 3-point barrage after converting three treys and she also registered double digits with her 15 markers. Tina Choi, Katriel Saures, and Soleil Lamar were the other scorers for GCA, which now has a 2-1 record.

Ivy Yu had 8 points to lead Agape, while Elizabeth Xu, and Lani Lishoalo chipped in 6 apiece. The Lady Torchbearers are still winless after three games.

Meanwhile, in the boys division game, Agape 1 pummeled GCA, 100-40.

Silas Xu had a field day against GCA, as he fired 34 points, while Jonathan Xiong contributed 26 markers. Peter Wang, Jerry Yuan, and Kobe Yang chipped in 14, 8, and 7, respectively, to complete Agape 1's demolition of the Eagles

Steven Balakrishna was the lone double-figure scorer for GCA with his 13 points, while Seung Jun Baek mustered only 8 markers, as Agape 1's gunners were too much to handle for the Eagles.

The Torchbearers improved to a 5-2 record and overtook Mount Carmel School 1 (6-3) at the No. 3 spot in the team standings, while the Eagles went down to a 3-7 mark.

In other results, the league-leading Kagman High School edged MCS 1 at the Koblerville Gymnasium, 65-62.

Behind at halftime, 27-32, the Ayuyus regrouped after the extended break and caught up with the Knights by the end of the third period, forcing a deadlock, 43-all.

Then in the fourth quarter, Kagman overcame Mount Carmel's hot 3-point shooting with an efficient offense to eke out a close victory and foil the Knights bid for an upset. After surviving MCS 1, Kagman upped their record to 9-1.

J.D. Magofna led Kagman with his 14 points, while Dean Blake and Kobe Lifoifoi had 10 markers apiece.

Meanwhile, MCS 2 will face Agape 1 at the latter's home court in Gualo Rai at 3:30pm today. Tomorrow, a double-header will be played at the Koblerville Gymnasium, with Saipan Southern High School battling Agape 2 at 3:30pm and MCS 2 challenging GCA. Also scheduled for tomorrow is the game between Kagman and Agape 1 at the Kagman Community Center at 3:30pm.

Girls Division

GCA 55—Phan 31, Torres 15, Choi 6, Saures 2, Lamar 1.
Agape 36—I. Yu 8, Lishoalo 6, Xu 6, K. Garcia 5, W. Tang 5, A. Yu 4, Zhang 2.
Scoring by quarters: 20-8, 29-19, 38-27, 55-36.

KAGMAN 1

From Page 28

back-to-back with a win over MHS 2 before losing to Tinian in the third round.

MHS 1 then fought its way out of the loser's bracket to remain in contention for the division crown. MHS 1 beat MHS 3 and Saipan Southern 3 and then got even with Tinian, as the former eked out a 20-17 win over the Stallions to set up a finals showdown against the undefeated Kagman 1.

The Ayuyus went on to preserve their perfect record after edging MHS 1 right in Game 1 of the finals.

In the girls division, MHS 1 won against Tinian 1 twice in the finals to steal the championship.

The Lady Dolphins escaped with a 6-5 victory in Game 1 to force the deciding Game 2, which was also closely fought with MHS 1 pulling off a 6-4 win.

MHS 1 had its back against the wall in the championship round, as it lost to MHS 2 right in its first game. MHS 2 marched on to play Tinian 1 in the winner's bracket with the visiting team winning, 7-5, to make it to the finals with a twice-to-beat advantage.

MHS 1, on the other hand, squared off against Tinian 2 and won, 5-3, to keep its finals hopes alive. Next up was the all-Lady Dolphins duel for the last finals seat and MHS 1 avenged its earlier loss to MHS 2, 7-5, and barged into the championship round against the favored and undefeated Tinian 1. The Lady Dolphins went on sweep Tinian 1 in the finals with back-to-back nail-biters.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

drilling the winning goal two minutes into the extra time. Joe Miller recorded Paire's other goal in the 24th minute to knot the count at halftime. Earlier in the 22nd minute Kosuke Sato found his target to give The Old B Bank the shaky lead, which it eventually lost late in the match.

Paire remained unbeaten in two games to share the division lead with TanHoldings, while The Old B Bank is winless after two matches.

TanHoldings 7, Matansa 1

In the second game, TanHolding dominated Matansa.

Joshua Waldo, Kaden Church, and Mark Esalan registered two goals apiece for TanHoldings, while Emanuel Aniana added one. TanHoldings opened a 4-0 halftime advantage with Waldo, Church, Aniana, and Esalan scoring.

Matansa then averted a shutout loss when Jacob Montes-Sabino found the back of the net in the 53rd minute. However, TanHoldings still outgunned Matansa with Church, Waldo, and Esalan getting their second goal in the final half.

NMI U18 11, Kanoa 0

The last match of the weekend was also a blowout in favor of the NMI Boys U18 National Team.

The Teen Ayuyus broke away right in the first half after firing seven goals, six of them came from Sunjoon Tenorio and the other one from Sebastien Manabat. Tenorio added one more in the second half, while Jonathan Capayas, Edwin Kim, and John Michael Rojas also scored in the final 45 minutes of the one-sided match to hand NMI U18 the easy victory in its season debut.

M-LEAGUE STANDINGS

Division A								
Teams	MP	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
TanHoldings	2	2	0	0	6	11	1	10
Paire	2	2	0	0	6	7	1	6
NMI U18	1	1	0	0	3	5	0	5
Kanoa	2	1	0	1	3	4	5	-1
Old B Bank	2	0	0	2	0	1	6	-5
KFAS	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	-5
Matansa	2	0	0	2	0	1	11	-10
Division B								
Shirley's	2	2	0	0	6	8	4	4
PIC	1	1	0	0	3	4	2	2
Sun Palace	1	0	0	1	0	4	6	-2
WNT	2	0	0	2	0	2	6	-4

SAIPAN

From Page 28

won Park (39:02), and Saipan's Joseph Toth (40:05) and Kosuke Sato (40:25) rounded out the Top 6 in the men's field.

In the women's division, 2018 NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athlete of the Year Tania Tan was the fastest Saipan runner in the 10K after checking in at 46:38. She was second overall in their division behind South Korean pro Sonmi Yoon (42:50). Two other Saipan runners finished in the Top 6 overall with Ayano Braxton timing in at 47:36 (third in the division) and 11-year-old Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez posting 50:51 (sixth place). South Korea's Yoonyoung Kang (48:10) and Suki Choi (49:21) were the other Top 6 placers in the race that brought runners to as far as Beach Road across the former Saipan Mayor's Office before they headed back to AMP.

In other results, majority of 10K and half marathon top finishers in various age groups were from Saipan.

Below is the complete list of Top 6 overall and age group top finishers and their times in the 10K, half marathon, and full marathon races.

10K Top 6 Winners: (Men's) Keith Longuski (37:58), Jeyoung Yu (38:04), Zheng Chonghao (38:48), Jinwon Pak (39:02), Joseph Toth (40:05), and Kosuke Sato (40:25); (Women's) Sonmi Yoon (42:50), Tania Tan (46:38), Ayano Braxton (47:36), Yoonyoung Kang (48:10), Suji Choi (49:21), and Andrei Chavez (50:51)

10K Age Group Winners: 15U's Jie Qi (50:34) and Meihji Ou (1:09:36); 15 to 19's Tyler Santos (43:34) and Mia Carreon (1:06:13); 20 to 29's Yongsoo Kim (42:12) and Meghan West (51:33); 30 to 39's Younkwen Sung (42:23) and Megan Schuette (52:31); 40 to 49's Jack Kabiriel (47:25) and Xinmei Tang (55:26); 50 to 59's Sangcheol Kang (43:17) and Eunkyong Oh (55:40); and over 60's Kanghee Kim (56:45) and Elizaberth Kohnen (57:22)

Half Marathon Top 6: (Men's) You Ji Jie (1:16:34), Genta Saito (1:16:38), Yunfeng Huang (1:17:47), Akinori Tachibana (1:19:17), Masashi Saito (1:10:16), and Xiaoyu Sun (1:24:13); (Women's) Jia Yang (1:25:40), Wu Yang Fei (1:33:06), Sunok Hwang (1:33:21), Zhang Yongbo (1:39:28), Noriko Jim (1:45:01), and Mieko Carey (1:47:03).

Half Marathon Age Group Winners: 15U's Steve Qui (1:59:13) and Kristy Wang (2:33:46);16 to 19's Carl Obstonal (2:18:57) and Anika Snyder (2:07:376); 20 to 29's Changho Ha (1:29:40) and Somin Park (2:00:46); 30 to 39's Garett Overmars (1:38:31) and Kathy Ruszala (2:09:15); men's 40 to 49's Ronald Villafria (1:37:11) and Akiko Hagiwara (1:48:56); 50 to 59's Haksik Go (1:33:19) and Lydia Tan (2:00:58); and over 60's Kok Hung Ng (1:51:03).

Marathon Top 6 Winners: (Men's) Yoshiyuki Ono (2:38:32), Taku Fujiwara (2:39:39), Meisong Ji (2:44:13), Ryan Matienzo (2:44:47), Seiji Shiroki (2:59:43), and Satoshi Endo (3:00:14); (Women's) Natsuko Muramatsu (3:38:265), Kaylee Heath (3:32:39), Heather Taylor (3:41:39), Dianne Marie Sapida (3:43:17), Sakiko Eda (3:48:20), and Risa Yoshida (3:53:17).

Marathon Age Group Winners: 16 to 19's Chenxuan Yang (4:47:34) and Irish He Zhang (7:05:12); 20 to 29's Naiko Sakamoto (3:12:48) and Haeran Hwon (4:22:39)l 30 to 39's Tiantian Wang (3:21:11) and Xinli Zhang (4:54:31); 40 to 49's Seiji Adachi (3:03:49) and Kimberly King-Hinds (4:09:15); and 50 to 59's Jongboum Choi (3:21:25) and Yaling Zhu (4:22:31).

Federer gets brief scare at Indian Wells

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Sports

Durant injures ankle as Suns stun Warriors

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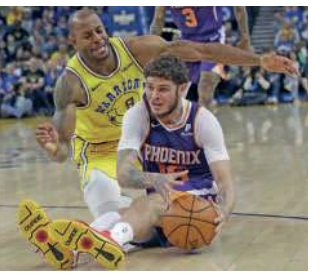

Kagman 1, MHS 1 triumph

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Kagman High School 1 player scoots in for a layup against a Saipan Southern High School defender during their game in the Public School System Interscholastic 3x3 Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School was unbeaten in the Public School System Interscholastic 3x3 Basketball Tournament to win the boys division crown, while Marianas High School 1 clinched the girls championship last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus earned four victories in the double-elimination tournament, including a 14-7 triumph over MHS 1 in Game 1 of the finals to prevail in the 12-team field.

The Dean Blake-led Kagman 1 first downed MHS 3 at the start of the playoff round and then outclassed Saipan Southern High School 3 in its second game to advance to the semifinals of the winner's bracket. In the semis, the Ayuyus were pitted against the visiting Tinian High School 2 and the former secured the first finals seat after a 14-11 victory. The win also gave Kagman 1 the twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round.

Tinian 2, on the other hand, fell to the loser's bracket and had to challenge MHS 1 for the last finals berth. Tinian 2, before bowing to Kagman 1, slipped past Kagman 3, Da'Ok, and MHS 1. The Dolphins topped Kagman 2 in their first game and made it

See KAGMAN 1 on Page 27

Saipan runners impress in 10K

SAIPAN MARATHON 2019

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Keith Longuski was back on top, while six other Saipan runners made it to the Top 6 overall of the 10K event in last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon.

Longuski, who won the same race in 2017, but missed a back-to-back last year after placing only second to South Korea's Sungchan Park, reclaimed the top honors in his division after beating South Korea's Jeyoung Yu in a sprint to the finish line at the American Memorial Park.

The two runners were engaged in a neck-and-neck race when they entered the AMP compound before Yu gave up in the last 10 meters, while Longuski continued to push himself until he cut the tape to complete the event in 37:58. Yu timed in at 38:04.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, South Korean pro Sonmi Yoon, Saipan's Tania Tan, and Ayano Braxton pose for a group photo after receiving their prizes during the awards ceremony for the 2019 Saipan Marathon last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

China's Zheng Chonghao (38:48), South Korea's Jin-

See SAIPAN on Page 27

Shirley's FC takes early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

M•LEAGUE

Shirley's Football Club moved up to solo top spot in Division B of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League after blanking the CNMI Women's National Team, 2-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Lalaine Pagarao knocked in the pair of goals for Shirley's, which got its second win in as many games to lead idle Pacific Islands Club and Sun Palace and the WNT. Pagarao scored her first goal in the 30th minute and the second one in the 69th. The WNT had multiple chances to hit the board, including a penalty kick from Jerlyn Castillo, but they could not complete the play and the squad went on to absorb its second defeat early in the season.

DIVISION A
Paire 2,
The Old B Bank 1

In the curtain-raiser, Paire edged out The Old B Bank.

Trey Dunn powered Paire to the close victory after

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club's Heng Guo Piao, right, beats the CNMI Women's National Team's Katrina Costales to the ball during the second half of their game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.